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# THE TIMES

No. 66,280

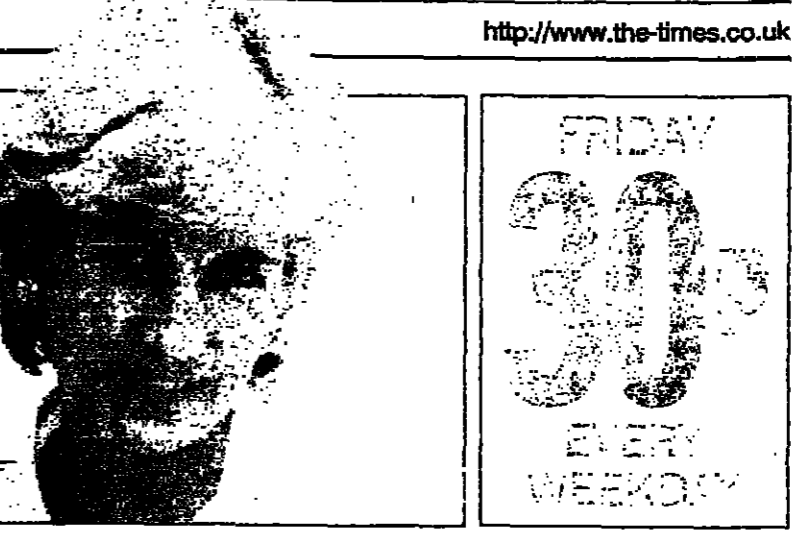
FRIDAY AUGUST 14 1998

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by Andrew Morton



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FRIDAY  
**30**  
EVERY WEEKEND

Party membership begins to decline

## Blair facing anger from rank and file

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR'S honeymoon with his party was over last night as membership fell for the first time since he became leader and Labour chiefs were accused of stifling dissent before next month's conference.

The leadership's difficulties were compounded when Liz Davies, a hard Left party activist who is campaigning for a seat on the national executive, accused the leadership of rigging the NEC ballot next month by allowing telephone voting.

Officials admitted that the number of people joining was now "in gentle decline" because the party had failed to modernise its message since taking power. They said they had been unable to spend money on membership drives because the party had debts of £4.5 million. Since reduced to £2.25 million.

Membership peaked at 405,000 in January this year but has now fallen to 394,000. Officials said that a further 5,000 people had said that they would join during fundraising events, but predicted that membership would fall by another 12,000 by the end of next year.

The drop is the first fall since Mr Blair was elected leader in July 1994. This year 30,000 people joined, compared to 91,163 the first full year after Mr Blair became leader. The party is losing members at the rate of 9 per cent a year.

The release of the figures coincided with an attack by the veteran Labour leftwinger, Tony Benn, on the Labour leadership for "nesting the party conference" with its reforms and turning it into an American Democratic conven-



Davies: ballot-fixing row

providing a presidential-style platform for Mr Blair.

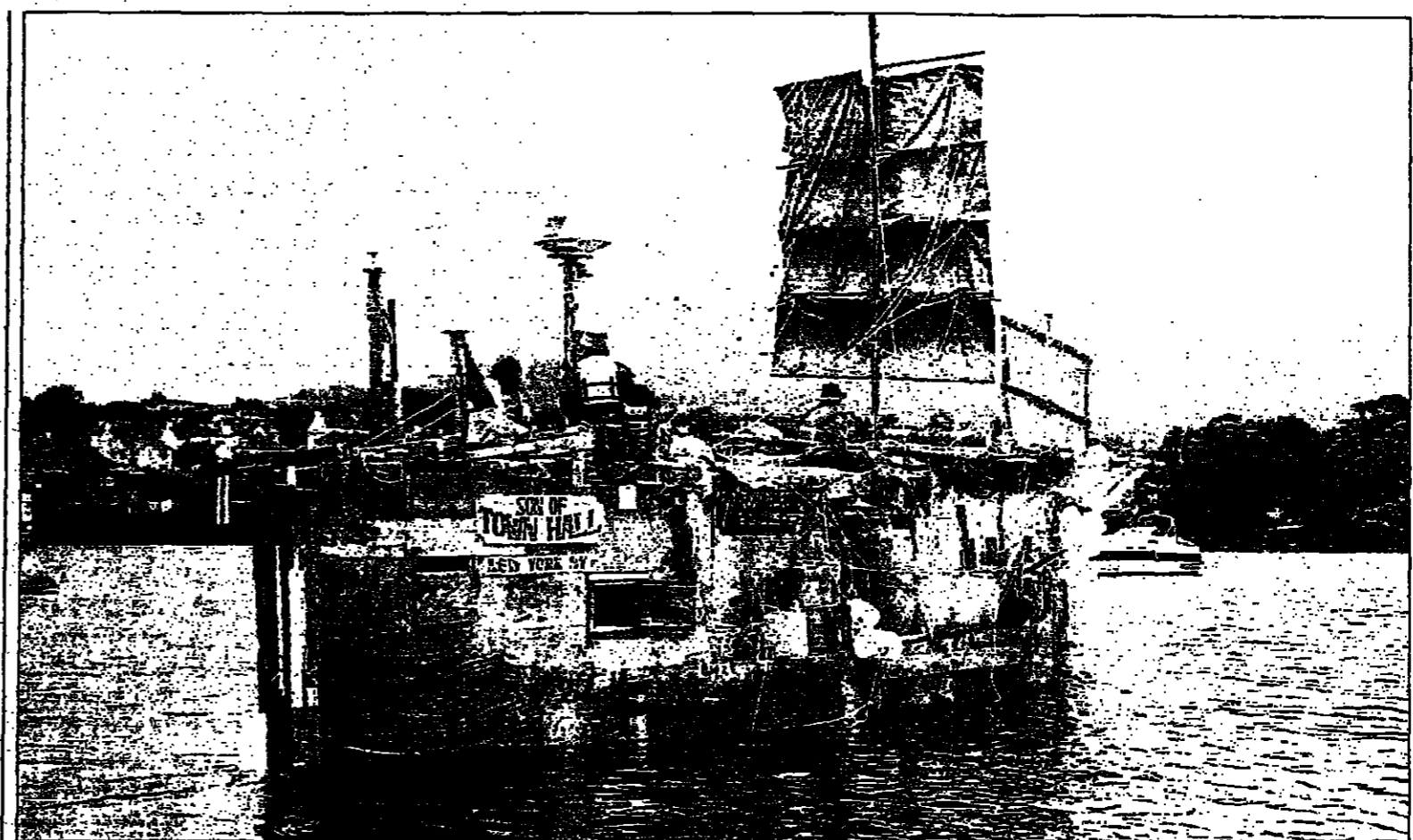
An NEC document reveals that several critical motions have already been submitted, including attacks on suppressing public sector pay awards, cutting lone-parent benefits, raising prescription charges, and failing to introduce a ban on foxhunting.

Andrew Mackinlay, Labour MP for Thurrock, criticised the private sessions as "absurd", claiming they could become like Prime Minister's Questions in the Commons with planted questions.

Matthew Taylor, assistant general secretary of the party and architect of many of the reforms, insisted the conference would not become a rubber stamp for the Government. Mr Taylor said the conference would remain a final say over policy. Delegates would be better informed about policy papers before voting, party members would be more closely involved in drawing up policy, and there would still be resolutions from constituency parties on contemporary issues. "It is not the right of annual conference to become some sort of alternative government."

Liz Tom Sawyer, the outgoing party general secretary, wrote to Ms Davies warning her to cease her "concocted campaign of slur and innuendo". Ms Davies, who is blocked by the NEC from standing as a Labour MP in Leeds North East at the last election, had written criticising Labour's use of a telephone ballot which she claimed could be open to abuse.

Party members are being given the choice of voting by



New York's finest flotsam: the raft reaching harbour at Castletownbere, Co Cork, yesterday after crossing the Atlantic in 63 days

## Recycled rubbish boat sails the Atlantic

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

FOUR people, two rottweilers and a short-haired Mexican terrier arrived in Ireland yesterday after a 63-day voyage across the Atlantic on a raft made from rubbish discarded by New Yorkers.

The *Son of Town Hall* docked in Castletownbere, a fishing town in southwest Co Cork, to the amazement of hundreds of locals who gathered on the pier to watch the raggedly-dressed three men and a woman on their ramshackle 50ft vessel.

At the same time, London wrote to Ms Davies warning her to cease her "concocted campaign of slur and innuendo". Ms Davies, who is blocked by the NEC from standing as a Labour MP in Leeds North East at the last election, had written criticising Labour's use of a telephone ballot which she claimed could be open to abuse.

Party members are being given the choice of voting by

steers under sail, is a plywood box sitting on top of a log. It is kept afloat by hundreds of pieces of foam and is able to right itself if blown over. It has three cabins, an electricity generator, radar and a global positioning system.

Edward Garry, the 37-year-old skipper, said: "It is a composite of recycled materials and we have put it together to make our dreams come true."

The American and Canadian crew, none of whom has any formal sea training, left Newfoundland in June with the hope of arriving in France 30 days later. They were delayed by 25ft waves, gales and icebergs, and were running out of food. They opted to break their journey in Ireland.

"I did not feel we were in danger at any time," Mr Garry said. "The raft could not sink - only break up. I never had a doubt that we would make it." People in Cork were less sure. Michael Harrington, a councillor, said:



Moonen on the Thames with his boat of plastic bottles

on a boat on the Hudson River with his wife and five children. His lawyer, Steven Short, recently described Pearlman, who is better known as Poppino, as "the last hippy".

It took two years to build the raft, which was completed in 1994. The crew will spend two weeks in Ireland before going to France. They intend sailing the raft until it falls apart but will not recross the Atlantic on it. Instead, they will build a hot air balloon from scrap in France to carry them back to New York.

A similar fascination with rubbish inspired the pilot of the Belgian vessel, 56-year-old Joz Moonen. He spent two years building it from salvaged plastic Coca-Cola

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**Birth choice**  
Healthy women should be allowed to choose to have their babies by Caesarean section, even if their doctors regard the decision as foolhardy and unnecessary, two leading obstetricians say. Page 5

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## Millions switch off British Gas

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

MORE than four million families have deserted British Gas to buy from rival companies.

Three million are already buying gas from other suppliers, and a further million have signed contracts to make the switch, according to Ofgas, the industry watchdog. Dr Eileen Marshall, the deputy regulator, said that some customers could save more than £60 a year by changing.

The dash away from the former monopoly has gathered pace with the expansion of competition across the whole country over the past four months, and BG has now lost more than a fifth of its customers. But the company aims to hit back by selling electricity - and it says that it has already arranged to supply 300,000 homes.

British Gas said: "Obviously we are disappointed when we lose customers, but we believe they will see reasons for staying when they can buy electricity as well."

More than 750,000 households in parts of Yorkshire, Cheshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Scotland will be able to choose their electricity supplier from September 14, when competition among suppliers begins to be phased in. All customers should have a choice of supplier by next June.

## Kick-and-tell story puts Hoddle's future in doubt

By Joanna Bale and Peter Foster

GLENN HODDLE'S future as England coach was being questioned last night as criticism grew that he had breached his players' privacy in a behind-the-scenes book on the World Cup.

Gary Lineker, the former England captain, said it was bizarre to publicly criticise his players. Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, branded Hoddle as unprofessional and said players would now be wary of him.

Hoddle's unflattering account of the behaviour of several members of England's World Cup squad, including Paul Gascoigne, David Beckham and Chris Sutton, breaks the tradition that dressing-room exchanges between players and manager should remain private. He faces a delicate meeting with 30 top players at a get-together at Bisham Abbey on Sunday. They are likely to ask him to justify his actions and convince them that he is fit to remain their mentor for the European Championships in Holland and Belgium in 2000.

Lineker said: "I'm quite amazed that Glenn has been so frank about it, almost too honest in many ways. Players do not want to read about what they have perhaps said to a manager in a certain



Hoddle challenge



"The boss says miss it, it'll make his book more interesting"

confined situation - a private situation." Taylor said: "Players in the squad will be very wary of Glenn and I don't think it is going to help his relationship with them. This is not the sort of thing we should expect from the England coach."

Hoddle, a committed Christian, almost doubled his £350,000 salary with the £250,000 advance he is thought to have received for the book, *The 1998 World Cup Story*, which was ghost-written by David Davies, the Football Association's director of public affairs. Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, yesterday defended Hoddle's right to keep a record of events: "The fact that this book was being produced has been

public knowledge for many months. Some of the matters are inevitably controversial. I am not aware he has breached any confidences. In a single case where a player has already made public a version of one incident last May, Glenn has sought to explain precisely what happened."

Last night, Hoddle's agent, Dennis Roach, issued a statement on his decision to give details of Gascoigne's rage after he learnt that he had been dropped: "Mr Hoddle decided it was necessary to insert in his book the facts of what had taken place as a result of Paul Gascoigne's explicit article in a national newspaper on June 2."

## Clinton's tears for bomb dead

President Clinton had tears streaming down his face as he led the mourning for ten of the Americans who died in the Nairobi bombing. Both Mr Clinton and Madeleine Albright wept openly as the flag-draped coffins were carried from the plane at Andrews Air Base and the names of the dead were called out against the strains of a band playing *Nearer My God to Thee*. Page 15

## Yeltsin absent as Russia suffers

Russia's economic crisis deepened as trading on the Moscow stock exchange was again suspended, with shares in free fall. The central bank tried to stem a new run on the rouble by imposing trading restrictions, and the Prime Minister stood by the Government's austerity measures. But the situation was not helped by President Yeltsin's continued absence on holiday. Page 12

## Lake tragedy

A Bedfordshire man and his seven-year-old son drowned when their motorboat capsized in Lake Garda. They had clung to the hull and sung to keep awake, but lost their grip and drifted away. The boy's 13-year-old brother is missing, but his mother was rescued. She and three members of another family were in hospital. Page 3

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# Ministers champion cause of older workers

Employers to be asked to sign voluntary code of practice on age discrimination, writes Polly Newton

EMPLOYERS will be asked to sign an anti-ageist code of practice as part of the Government's drive to end discrimination against older people in the workplace, it was announced yesterday.

The code will be introduced in the spring after consultation with organisations including the CBI and Age Concern. Andrew Smith, the Employment Minister, said that the Government had not ruled out legislation to outlaw age discrimination but believed that a non-statutory code offered "an early and positive way forward". It had the support of the public, business and organisations representing older people, he said. "I want it to be a user-friendly, practical, straightforward guide that firms see it is in their interests to sign up to because they are going

to be able to access and make the most of a wide pool of talent."

Mr Smith was speaking at the Department for Education and Employment published the results of its consultation on age discrimination in employment, which began shortly after the election last year. The 36-page document, *Action on Age*, says that all Govern-

ment departments should take into account the impact on older people of proposed policies. It promises to publish figures every month showing the number of over-50s who are out of work and the number who have found jobs or taken training courses. These will be reviewed annually, beginning next June, to assess how much progress is being

made. From next April, staff at the Employment Service will attend regional seminars to raise their awareness of age discrimination and discuss how to tackle the problem. The Employment Service already has a policy of refusing to display job advertisements if they carry an upper age limit.

Pressure-groups campaigning on behalf of older people welcomed the report and the promise of a code of practice. Ruth Jarratt, director of the Employers Forum on Age, said: "Action on Age sends a clear signal to employers that age discrimination must be tackled for the sake of the individual, business and society at large."

Sally Greengross, director gener-

al of Age Concern, said that the charity would be involved in drawing up the code of conduct. "It is vital that adequate provisions are made to ensure that no person is discriminated against on the grounds of age."

"All workers must be assessed in the same way with decisions governed by the skills and abilities that person has to offer."

Leading article, page 21

## Voyages

Continued from Page 1  
and Sprite bottles glued together with silicon bathroom sealant.

The 30ft *Ecotaxi* made the 60-mile voyage from the small town of Nieuwpoort, just south of Ostend, to Tower Bridge in just under 19 hours. The vessel, capable of 23 knots in light seas, has no keel or internal framework, but remains stable by using the water that seeps between the cellular structure of its hull.

Benzine fuel for the twin 25 horsepower outboard engines and the in-board entertainment system — an old car radio hooked up to a pair of speakers — are stored in three rusting chest freezers mounted amidships.

Accommodation is sparse: a two-man tent pitched in the bow section which offers enough cover for Mr Moonen to brew his coffee on a camping stove.

Yesterday, moored up river by Plumey Bridge, Mr Moonen, a Flemish speaker, told how he had set sail from Nieuwpoort in calm seas, reaching Ramsgate nine hours later. It was when he rounded the Ramsgate cape and set off along the Kentish Flats towards Queensborough and the Thames estuary that things started to get more exciting: "The waves were this big," said Mr Moonen, pointing to a spot about five feet above his head. "It was very rough."

His confidence in the seaworthiness of the *Ecotaxi* is not shared by his wife, Gerda. She took the Seacat from Ostende to meet her husband and spent a sleepless night on his boat. "She's terrified of the thing," said a friend.

## Tories attack Cook's plan for EU forum as 'hypocrisy'

By James Landale, Political Reporter

THE Tories and Liberal Democrats yesterday criticised Robin Cook's proposals to enhance the democratic legitimacy of the European Union by creating a new 'forum' of national parliaments to scrutinise policies from Brussels.

The Foreign Secretary told the *New Statesman* magazine that the forum could bridge the so-called "democratic deficit" by giving parliaments a greater oversight of their governments' European policies.

Michael Howard accused Mr Cook of "gross hypocrisy" for wanting to give Parliament a greater European role at the same time as reducing the Government's power to veto legislation.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary said: "This is yet another example of Labour saying one thing and doing another. Just six weeks after taking office, the Government signed a treaty which removed our national veto in 15 different areas, thus lessening the powers of national governments and national parliaments to resist new European legislation."

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat Foreign Affairs spokesman, said: "The last thing the EU needs is an extra layer of bureaucracy. Existing EU institutions should instead be made more accountable by giving the

European Parliament greater powers of scrutiny."

Hugh Kerr, the MEP who was expelled from the Labour party in January, said: "These proposals are an insult to all existing British Euro-MPs, particularly the Labour ones. Does Mr Cook really think that when they are in Brussels or Strasbourg they do not have the interests of their constituents and home issues at the forefront?"

However, Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the European Commission, backed Mr Cook's proposals, saying they were similar to his suggestion four years ago for a committee of national parliaments.

"National parliaments, however much they try, don't really follow what's going on in Europe and find it very difficult to do so satisfactorily in order to control the line that their Governments take in Europe," he told the BBC's *Today* programme. "If you had a committee of this kind where they met people from other Parliaments, that would help to do that."

The committee would not be a chamber of the European Parliament but would instead be a separate body to consider whether legislation should be done at a European or at a national level.

Leading article, page 21



David McSavage on the shoulders of supporters outside Edinburgh Sheriff Court

## Fury over decision to release killers of policemen

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

POLICE and grieving relatives reacted furiously yesterday to plans by the Irish Government to release IRA terrorists jailed for murdering police officers.

Irish police associations have joined the family of Frank Hand, an officer murdered in 1984, in condemning the decision to grant early release under the terms of the Good Friday agreement to four IRA men who murdered two detectives.

The police and the Hand family want the prisoners to stay in Portlaoise, a high-security prison 30 miles west of Dublin, until they have completed the mandatory 40-year sentence handed down in Ireland to people who kill police officers.

Michael Hand, whose brother was murdered in 1984 as he escorted a post office van through Drumcree, Co Meath, said the Government was wrong to apply the approach of Northern Ireland to the Republic. "I would accept that there has to be a compromise and, obviously, Northern Ireland has a very difficult problem."

"However, in my view, the Republic of Ireland was a separate sovereign state. At the time that Frank was shot, the Republic of Ireland was not at war and I find it hard to accept that Frank's killers should be part of the agreement at all."

Dublin has been deliberately vague about the early release of the four IRA police killers — Patrick McPhillips, Thomas Eccles, Brian McShane and Peter Rogers — as it was one of the most difficult aspects of the agreement to sell to the Irish people. However, under pressure from Northern Ireland's Alliance Party, the Government had to admit this week that the release of the four men was inevitable.

The Garda Representative Association, on behalf of 8,500 rank and file Irish police officers, said the Government was making a mistake. John Healy, its president, said: "We are not going to let this matter go away lightly. It is a matter of life and death."

McPhillips, Eccles and McShane were convicted for murdering Mr Hand. Rogers was jailed for the 1980 murder of Seamus Quaid, a detective.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Buccleuch warns of 'tartan euphoria'

A retiring lord-lieutenant yesterday spoke out against Scottish independence and gave a warning of "tartan-curtain euphoria".

The Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, who owns a large estate in the Scottish Borders, said: "As a Scottish nationalist in my heart, but a British nationalist in my head, I am dismayed by proposals that could turn the United Kingdom into a disunited Kingdom. Unless checks can rule hearts, the clock could be turned back 291 years with dire consequences." The duke will retire as Lord-Lieutenant of Roxburgh, Ettrick and Lauderdale on his 75th birthday.

### Shorter wait

Hospital waiting lists in Scotland have fallen for the first time in almost two years, Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, announced yesterday. He said they were down by 822 between March 31 and June 30, the first drop since September 1996. "I expect to see further improvement from now on."

### Unexpected twin

A woman whose baby suffered brain injuries and died aged seven months after doctors failed to realise she was giving birth to twins is to sue Raigmore Hospital NHS Trust, Inverness. Mhairi Miller, 28, is taking legal action after Sheriff Kenneth Fraser called for an overhaul in maternity procedures.

### Design plea

A coroner recommended changes to the design of upright weighing machines as he recorded a verdict of accidental death on Jhordan Stafford, seven, from Macclesfield, Cheshire. The inquest at Warrington was told the boy had been playing on a weighing machine at a leisure centre when it fell on him.

### Hard-water risk

Hard water increases the risk of primary school children developing eczema by about a third, according to research by the University of Nottingham published today. Parents may be partly to blame because they insist on washing children frequently. One theory is that chemicals such as calcium are an irritant.

### Hostages freed

A couple in their twenties and their baby daughter were held hostage for three days in their flat in St Leonards, East Sussex, by a man armed with a knife. The husband raised the alarm after he was allowed to leave to buy food and the man surrendered to armed police in the early hours of yesterday.

### Molly jumps to it

A woman in her seventies is to recreate a parachute jump performed by her mother 90 years ago. With the help of the Parachute Regiment Molly Sedgewick, 78, plans to jump in tandem with one of the freefall team, to commemorate the first recorded mid-air rescue, performed by her mother, Dolly, in 1908.

## Courthouse stages a Fringe sideshow

By Shirley English

EDINBURGH Sheriff Court became the venue for a Fringe sideshow yesterday when an Irish comedian faced breach of the peace charges.

The performance did not receive Fringe billing, but the publicity aroused by Mr McSavage's arrest on Sunday for shouting "penis" and threatening to set his genitals alight during his outdoor show on the Royal Mile drew a sizeable audience.

However, no record of Mr McSavage's case could be found and the action was

dismissed. The crowd cheered and Mr McSavage, 32, the son of David Andrews, the Irish Foreign Minister, was carried out shoulder-high.

News of his arrest has propelled Mr McSavage to celebrity status in Edinburgh. His musical comedy at the Southside venue is selling out, and he has been asked to appear on Ireland's top-rated *The Late Late Show* with Gay Byrne. "I feel like giving the policemen who arrested me a big bunch of flowers," he said.

Festival reviews, page 34

## Cash boost for 'super GPs'

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

A HANDFUL of "super surgeries" that stay open late and at weekends to provide a wide range of GP services will be eligible for extra cash from a new £10 million fund.

Ministers are to set up a new fund for so-called "beacon" primary care groups, or centres of excellence, that give patients easier access to GPs and hospital services.

GPs who open their surgeries to patients at anti-social hours, do minor surgery, offer consultant clinics and liaise with social services to ensure that patients do not clog up hospital beds, will be able to

apply for awards of hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Ministers are keen to encourage GPs to extend their hours, reduce surgery waiting times and reduce the time for hospital referrals. They also want to see more health centres that provide a range of services, such as a pharmacy, dental treatment, dentists, social workers and mental health care.

The primary care group would also be expected to provide services such as physiotherapy, blood tests and diagnostic examinations to avoid hospital referrals. To

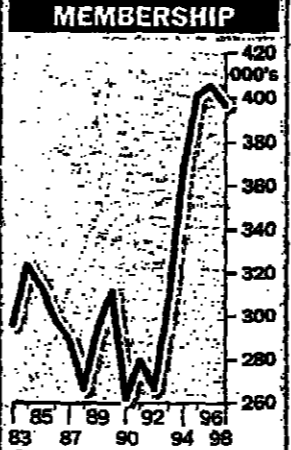
day Alan Milburn, the Health Minister, will announce new guidelines for the 480 primary care groups that will replace GP fundholding from next April. He will suggest that extra resources should be used to reward "best practice".

The new "beacon" fund is not expected to be announced until October, but ministerial sources made clear last night that GPs who won extra money would be expected to spread best practice.

Ministers expect about half a dozen primary care "beacons" to become the trailblazers.

## Blair facing rank and file's anger

### LABOUR PARTY MEMBERSHIP



Continued from page 1  
post or by telephone. In her letter, sent to key party officials and senior left-wing MPs, she wrote: "I wish to register an immediate objection to the inclusion of telephone voting, which I believe is open to manipulation and abuse, and which may compromise the final result, whatever it may be."

She asked for an immediate reassurance that telephone voting would not be permitted. "As far as I am aware, the provision for telephone voting has never been authorised or specifically approved by the NEC. If this is not the case, please send me a copy of the

appropriate minutes." But Mr Sawyer leapt to the defence of Unity Security Balloting, the company conducting the telephone poll. "This sort of allegation is only the latest in what appears to be a concerted campaign of slur and innuendo aimed at party staff and others," he said.

Ms Davies criticised Mr Sawyer for recasting her letter, denying that she was slurring party employees and claiming his intervention was inappropriate. Party officials said that there had been telephone voting in the poll on changing Clause Four of the party's constitution and there had

been no evidence of any bias. Mr Benn wrote to Gordon Brown accusing him of having no industrial policy and of trying to protect the rich. Mr Benn told the Chancellor that he was personally responsible for weakening British manufacturing through high interest rates.

"The huge pay rises awarded to top businessmen, who at the same time are demanding wage restraint, and the fact that you have ruled out tax increases on the highest earners to claw some of that money back, suggest that the protection of the rich is one of the Government's main objectives," Mr Benn wrote.

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# Father and son die in holiday boating tragedy

### Three family members drifted into the night after clinging to upturned hull. Richard Owen reports

A FATHER and his young son drowned after their rented motorboat capsized in a storm on Lake Garda in northern Italy.

They had clung to the upturned hull with another family, singing songs in an effort to stay awake, but lost their grip and drifted away in the early hours of the morning. The boy's brother is missing and also feared dead.

Police at Desenzano di Garda, the largest town at the southern end of the lake, named the dead man as Richard Harris, 50, believed to be from the village of Renhold in Bedfordshire. The bodies of him and his son Luke, 7, have been found. Mr Harris's wife, Catherine, was rescued and is in intensive care. Last night police in helicopters and patrol boats were still searching for their other son, Timothy, 13.

The Harrises had gone boating with three members of a family from Aberdeen, the Lilleys, all of whom were rescued with Mrs Harris yesterday after spending a night in the water. They are all being treated for exposure in Desenzano hospital.

Jane Lilley, who stayed at her family's hotel while her husband, John, 43, and children Andrew, 14, and Alison, 12, went on the boat trip, described her family's ordeal yesterday.

"They were just holding on to the upside down boat all night," she told BBC Radio



Survivors John Lilley and his son Andrew



Scotland. "They sang and chatted and basically tried to keep each other awake. They were all on there, to begin with. They were trying to hold on to the others, as well. They tried very hard to support them but it just didn't work."

She went on: "The water was warm but the air was cold. Eventually some sort of

boat picked them up. They drifted right down the lake and then they were picked up by the boat."

She said that the survivors were "shocked" and in hospital, but with no serious injury. Massimo Belizzari, a police spokesman, said that the search for Timothy Harris would continue as long as the light lasted and, if necessary, would be resumed today.

Signor Belizzari said that the seven people had boarded the boat at Limone, towards the north of the lake, at 4pm on Wednesday. "At around 5pm a storm blew up and the boat was overturned." He said that the water being warm at this time of year had helped the survivors, who were rescued by workers clearing the lake yesterday morning. The bodies of Mr Harris and his son were found later.

The authorities said they had received several distress calls from other vessels in trouble on Wednesday. The lake, east of Milan, is a popular tourist site for swimming and boating.

A spokesman for the British Consulate in Milan said: "The weather has been very hot recently and so when a storm came we thought it would be a bad one. The wind was apparently very strong and caused massive waves."

"It seems the boat simply turned over. They didn't know what had hit them."

The Harris family had travelled to Italy with First Choice Holidays. They were staying Limone sul Garda, a picturesque resort of stone houses and cobbled streets popular with British and German visitors. A company spokeswoman said that the motorboat had been independently hired.

The Foreign Office confirmed the details provided by Italian police and said that relatives had been informed.



Marie Allen, her partner Steven O'Malley and their baby Shannon were killed in the crash, along with Reece, 5, top, and Laura, 8



# Car crash mother was pregnant with twins

By PETER FOSTER

A MOTHER who died with her partner and three children in a car crash was five months pregnant with twin boys.

Marie Allen, 30, Steven O'Malley, 43, and Laura Allen, 8, Reece Allen, 5, and one-year-old Shannon O'Malley died when their convertible car clipped a coach on the A16 near Louth, Lincolnshire, and rolled into a ditch, bursting into flames.

Chris Charman, a neighbour in Brinkhill, near Louth, said: "The kids were just lovely - playful, happy and

cheerful. I can still see the little one shouting at me over the fence. I looked out the window this morning and saw all their toys in the garden and had to look away again, it was too sad."

Mrs Charman and her husband, Bob, said that the family had moved to the village a year ago, from Rotherham, South Yorkshire. She spoke to them less than an hour before the accident on Wednesday evening. "They phoned us at five o'clock and asked us to pick their milk up from the shop."

She added that Ms Allen had only recently had her pregnancy con-

firmed. "She showed me the scan picture of the boys. This is just awful."

Laura and Reece attended Tetford Primary School in a neighbouring village to Brinkhill, which amounts only to a cluster of houses with a shop and a telephone box. Mrs Charman said: "It is just too horrible to think about. I am still thinking they are going to come back now."

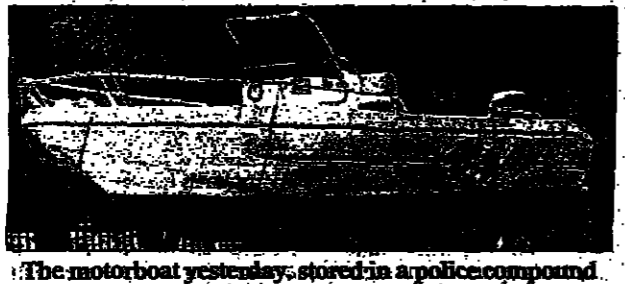
Police were continuing to sift through the wreckage yesterday. Dental records were used to identify several of the bodies.

The crash, on a single carriageway road, injured 37 people on the coach,

which was returning from a day trip to Skegness. Most of the injuries were minor, but one person with more serious injuries had to be flown to hospital in Lincoln, and was reported to be in a stable condition last night.

The coach was owned by Price International Travel, based in Halesowen, near Birmingham. David Price, the owner, said an inquiry would be conducted as a matter of course.

Police said that the coach driver had given a negative breath test for alcohol.



The motorboat yesterday, stored in a police compound

# Boy engulfed in flames by birthday party fire act

By RICHARD DUGGS

A BOY celebrating his 12th birthday with a party yesterday described how he saved a friend who was engulfed in flames when a fire-juggling act went wrong.

Liam Voller and his guests were enjoying the entertainment in the garden when a bowl of methylated spirit being used by the juggler exploded. A fireball engulfed seven-year-old Sam McLaren. As it burned his hair and face, Liam rolled him on the ground to put out the flames. He said it was a lesson he had learnt with the Cub Scouts.

Sam was taken to hospital with his mother, Wendy McLaren, 30, and their neighbour, Jane Bennett, 31, Liam's aunt, who was hosting the party at her house in Dover, Kent, on Wednesday evening. None of their injuries was said to be life-threatening.

Liam, who is 12 today, said: "Everyone was having a really good time when the juggler poured something into a bowl and suddenly there were flames everywhere. Sam was

shouting he was on fire and me and a friend jumped on him and pushed him to the ground. We rolled him on the floor and were hitting his head to put the flames out."

"I learnt it at Cubs where we did first aid. I wasn't scared at the time but I felt a bit scared afterwards. Wendy and my aunt were also hurt and we wrapped them all in duvets until the ambulance came."

A senior fire officer in Dover last night praised Liam for doing "a marvellous job".

Mrs Bennett staged the party, complete with bouncy castle and the children's entertainer, Alan Leigh, to mark Liam's birthday and that of Stacey McLaren, who was 11 last Monday. There were around 20 children and adults present when the accident happened.

Donna Hair, a neighbour, said: "There was a big whoosh and flames blew back into the audience's faces. The children were in a real state, they were screaming and shouting and a lot of them were shaking."

Liam did really well, he jumped on Sam and put the flames out. The entertainer was stunned and he also then helped put the flames out."

Mrs Bennett was last night said to be comfortable in the specialist burns unit at Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead, West Sussex. Sam and his mother are recovering at St Andrew's Hospital in Billericay, Essex, which specialises in treatment for people who have inhaled smoke and flame.

A police spokeswoman said the incident was being treated as an accident. "This guy, who we believe to be a professional entertainer, appears to have spilt some fluid which has ignited and blown across the lawn into three people." Dover District Council said it would be carrying out an investigation to see whether the juggler had infringed the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Mr Leigh, from Dover, was said to be "devastated" by the incident and could not be contacted for comment.

# Stalker accused of renewed campaign is freed by court

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

A FALKLANDS war veteran, who became the first stalker to be jailed for inflicting psychological grievous bodily harm, walked free from court yesterday after being accused again of harassing his victim.

Anthony Burstow, whose campaign against Tracey Sant, now Morgan, led to last year's Protection from Harassment Act, was bound over to keep the peace for 12 months after being charged again with causing grievous bodily harm. Judge Stanley Spence ordered the charge to lie on file after the prosecution admitted there was insufficient evidence against Burstow, 38.

Miss Morgan sat at the back of Reading Crown Court in tears as Burstow, a former naval petty officer, was freed. When she saw him in front of her outside the court, she



Morgan leaves court in tears after seeing Burstow

named to her family and said: "I'm imprisoned here now. I can't go out. If he sees me now, he'll get a kick out of that."

The court was told that Miss Morgan, 30, who was then married, befriended Burstow when they worked together in 1992 at HMS

Collingwood naval base in Hampshire. However, the friendship soon became unwanted. Paul Reid, for the prosecution, said:

Burstow, who was jailed for three years in 1996, was freed on licence in June 1997. In January 1998 Miss Morgan received a birthday card, believed to be from him.

After reports that he was stalking her again, Miss Morgan returned to psychiatric treatment. Burstow was arrested after he was spotted outside her mother's home in Crowthorne, Berkshire.

However, yesterday he was freed after Mr Reid told the court that the Crown had asked for the case to lie on file because there was insufficient evidence to prove beyond reasonable doubt he had caused "her latest bout of distress". He said that Miss Morgan understood the reason for the decision.



YO-YO MA BELIEVES THE BEST INSTRUMENTS ARE ITALIAN, MADE IN THE EARLY EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

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voices," he explains, describing the

Stradivarius as "more like a great clarinet,

more tenor, while the Montagnana is

more like a baritone, more earthy, like

a Burgundy. But which I choose is

up to my mood..." On the subject

of his third instrument, the Rolex

chronometer which accompanies him

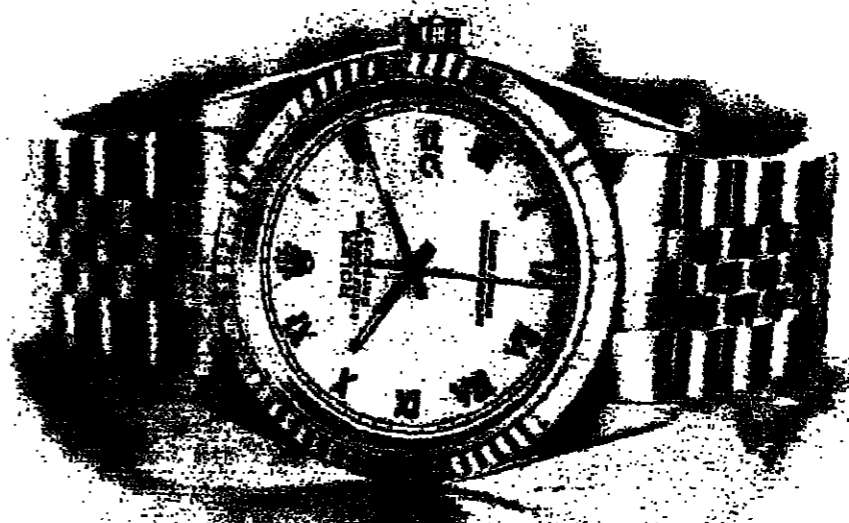
everywhere, Yo-Yo Ma is equally candid.

"I just love it," he says. "You

can use it for any occasion."



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# Doctors call for right to choose Caesarean birth

HEALTHY women must be allowed to have their babies by Caesarean section if they want, however foolish or irrational their decision may seem to their doctors, according to two leading specialists.

The specialists argue in two separate papers published today in the *British Medical Journal* that a sea change is under way in medical attitudes to Caesareans. "While any request for one has traditionally been refused, there is a growing belief that the procedure can no longer be seen as clinically unjustifiable. "We are at a turning point in obstetric thinking," writes Sara Paterson-Brown, consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital in London. That had been brought about by advances in making Caesareans safe, by evidence of "substantial morbidity" with normal births, and by changes in the attitudes of society which has become intolerant of risk.

A recent survey of woman obstetricians in London found that 31 per cent of them would choose to have a Caesarean rather than a normal birth if they had an uncomplicated singleton pregnancy. Eighty per cent of those who would prefer the operation said they were frightened of the injuries that they knew they could suffer during a normal delivery.

Miss Paterson-Brown says that a recent study of what happens during different types of births "challenges some deep-rooted obstetric and midwifery teachings". Evidence showing the balance of benefit versus harm between Caesarean and other deliveries was incomplete but "it challenges the dogma that vaginal delivery is almost always better". She says that a

**Specialists say women should have what they want, however foolish, writes Ian Murray**

normal delivery can cause greater damage to the pelvic floor and worse incontinence than among women who have a Caesarean. There was a one in 1,500 risk of a baby weighing over 3lb 6oz dying during or shortly after normal deliveries, 10 per cent of cerebral palsy cases occurred during labour. Once a baby is overdue there was a one in 600 chance of it dying.

These problems are all avoided by a Caesarean, which carries its own but different risks. Women who ask for a Caesarean must be given all the facts and then allowed to make up their own minds, Miss Paterson-Brown says.

"We encourage family planning and pre-pregnancy counselling, we routinely perform antenatal screening and we offer prenatal diagnosis, all of which are unnatural and promote the concept of a designer baby. Can we do all this and then refuse a woman a safe mode of delivery that removes the gambles associated with labour and which she personally finds acceptable?"

She says that she expected only a very small proportion of women would opt for a Caesarean if they were healthy, but the choice had to

be there provided they were fully informed of all the risks. A Caesarean birth costs the NHS about £2,500, against £1,500 for a normal delivery. In another paper *Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, specialist registrar in obstetrics at the Leicester General Hospital, says that women's requests for a particular delivery for fear of consequences of the other mode were not always rational.

Choice needed to be informed but ultimately "competent women are free to decline medical advice and treatment for rational or irrational reasons, or for no reason, even if as a consequence they or their foetus suffer death or injury". He adds: "If a Caesarean section is the preferred mode of delivery by the mother, her choice, however foolish or irrational, must be respected."

Anne Jackson-Baker, director of the English board of the Royal College of Midwives, agreed. A woman's right to choose was paramount, she said. "Provided she is in possession of all the facts, if she decides she doesn't want to go through labour then we must respect that decision, even though midwives would naturally prefer the mother to have a normal birth."

The rate for Caesareans has tripled in the last 25 years from 4.5 per cent in 1970 to 16 per cent today and it is still rising. Over 100,000 women in Britain have a Caesarean every year and it is now the most commonly performed operation on women.

In the United States up to a third of all births in some areas are now by Caesarean section. Women's groups have blamed doctors' fear of litigation for the increase. In Italy, where women's choice must be respected by law, 4 per cent choose to have a Caesarean.



Sara Paterson-Brown with new babies at Queen Charlotte's, London, yesterday

## Unwise move in a normal pregnancy



THE late Sir Eardley Lancelot Holland, the doyen of obstetricians in my youth, would have been shocked to hear that 31 per cent of female obstetricians in London with normal pregnancies would choose to have a Caesarean section.

Nor would he have been able to believe that a consultant from Queen Charlotte's - the arbiter in all matters of midwifery and where he was once a member of staff - should suggest that a well-informed NHS patient should be allowed to choose her own method of delivery.

The statement from Sara Paterson-Brown is one of the most revolutionary of this generation. To the Treasury, which would have to foot the bill, it must be sweat-making.

Miss Paterson-Brown is no hypocrite: she must be aware that what is considered the best for her colleagues should be offered to patients. Furthermore, she must know that, once Caesars became acceptably safe, most obstetricians capitulated to forceful private patients who wanted one. She is now offering to her NHS patients the service that private patients have received.

But the woman with a

normal pregnancy would be unwise to prefer a Caesarean. Women cannot just be unzipped; Caesars become more difficult with each subsequent baby. The internal tissue around the bladder becomes progressively scarred and contracted. Caesars are not free of complications, including maternal death, and they do not necessarily protect against later genital prolapse, although this becomes much less likely.

Women should realise that, if they are forceful, the pregnancy is uncomplicated, the staff well trained and an ambulatory epidural is available, delivery can be painless and they will feel better after it than after a Caesarean.

Parents worry whether their babies' academic future will be jeopardised by anaesthesia and a Caesarean. A study a few years ago showed that the optimum time and method of delivery in relation to later academic life is a Caesarean between 37 and 38 weeks. After this, a proportion of babies suffer by being minimally inadequately nourished through the placenta.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

## US baby helps to save life of cancer boy, 2

By PAUL WILKINSON

A BOY aged two is recovering from a rare blood cancer after he was given cells from the umbilical cord of a baby in America. Doctors say it is the first time cells from an unrelated donor have been used in Britain.

Jake Parkin has juvenile chronic myeloid leukaemia, which is rare at his age. There is a 60 per cent cure rate with chemotherapy, but, after he failed to respond, doctors at the Children's Hospital in Sheffield decided he needed a transplant of stem cells extracted from a baby's umbilical

cord, which trigger the growth of new blood cells and develop the immune system.

A tissue match could not be found in Britain, but, after days of searching, a 95 per cent match was found 4,000 miles away in St Louis, Missouri. Doctors sent just 150ml, effectively a syringe, in a refrigerated container.

The Sheffield team, led by Ajay Vora, a consultant haematologist, are hoping the ground-breaking treatment will prove successful. Jake's mother, Cheryl Parkin, from Sheffield, said: "It just seemed

so amazing that this one syringe of blood could be so important to Jake's survival. For us, it was the start of the rest of Jake's life.

"Now we are having trouble holding Jake down. He thinks his hospital bed is a trampoline and is desperate to get out of isolation and on to the ward to play with some new toys."

He will be allowed home soon, but must return for regular check-ups. Dr Vora said: "Stem cells are important to the new growth of blood cells and the immune system and it is these stem cells which are found in a high concentration in the umbilical cord of a newborn baby.

"This is the first time such a cord blood transplant has been carried out in the United Kingdom from an unrelated donor. Since the transplant, blood tests have been taken daily and the first indications are hopeful."

Mrs Parkin and her husband, John, first realised Jake, their only child, was ill in March. He was admitted as an emergency to the hospital and they were told he had leukaemia the next day. He was given intensive chemotherapy treatment, but it did not work.



Cheryl Parkin with Jake, who is on the road to recovery

## Offenders could serve half probation order

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

OFFENDERS could serve only half their probation orders under a plan to deal with financial cutbacks, extra work and rising staff vacancies in the Probation Service.

Managers have been told to consider discharging at the halfway stage all probation orders if there has been no breach or further offending since the court imposed the order. The measures are planned by the North East London Probation Service, which has faced difficulties since a cut of £750,000 in its £10 million budget this year, and an increase in the individual caseloads of its officers.

A memo from the service's deputy chief probation officer, Richard Baldwin, calls on managers to ensure that all probation orders and orders combining probation with community service be considered for discharge at the

halfway stage. It also calls for pre-sentence court reports recommending supervision for criminals to specify shorter orders wherever possible.

Offenders are to be placed on community service projects without an initial interview by a community service officer, but after a risk assessment carried out by an unit manager. Probation Service managers will take their recommendations to discharge probation orders to the courts for a final decision. At present they have the power to go to a court to seek early termination of an order if an offender has made progress and not reoffended.

Last night a Home Office spokeswoman criticised the proposals: "It is not a responsible attitude for the Probation Service, but it would be for the judge to say if an order was to be discharged."

But Mr Baldwin defended his service's proposals: "We have got a situation where workloads are increasing, resources are tight and tasks are also increasing."

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said his members' workload had increased by up to 50 per cent in two years. "Nationally the service has lost over 600 staff, so it is little wonder that some drastic measures have to be resorted to."

### CORRECTION

Two of the photographs in yesterday's obituary page, those of Henri Ziegler and Isidore Kerman, were transposed. We apologise for the error.



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# Teachers warned not to rub sunscreen on pupils

TEACHERS were advised yesterday to refuse to apply sunscreen to children in their care because of the risks of being accused of sexual abuse.

In guidelines to be issued to education authorities, the Local Government Association said that, even with parental consent, teachers should not apply sun lotion. Besides, the association added, the time taken to apply the sunscreen would cut into lesson time.

Ivor Widdeson, education officer for the association, said: "Teachers' reluctance is well-founded. This whole issue must be subject to the most careful consideration because school teachers are very vulnerable to accusations of physical and sexual abuse."

The advice goes on to say that pupils of mainstream school age, from five to 18, "are capable of self-administration of sunscreen products".

The association was prompted to offer the advice after the Health Education Authority found that many primary school teachers were reluctant to help pupils to protect themselves from the sun because they thought they were not permitted to do so

## Fears of sexual abuse allegations prompt guidelines for education authorities, says Victoria Fletcher

under the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981. In its attempt to create guidelines for the Department of Health's sun awareness campaign, the authority sought the advice of the local authorities' umbrella body.

However, the authority was surprised by the association's response. A spokesman said: "We were hoping they would come round, as children are in the sun at the hottest time of the day. But their advice has been surprising and does not help us to advise on protecting children."

Teaching unions described the comments as extreme. Olwyn Gunn, education secretary for the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "It is very extreme indeed. Teachers are carers and are attempting to establish relations with young children, and we would not advise our teachers to refuse to administer

cream. However, we cannot dismiss the position teachers are in concerning allegations. Just one accusation and they are suspended, and there have been enough such cases to make teachers worried."

Margaret Morrissey, from the National Conference of Parent and Teacher Associations, said the advice was one step too far. Teachers should act *in loco parentis* and if the parents gave permission for sun protection to be administered, it was unwise not to do so. "The LGA are out of order on this. They are basically saying that in the nice weather they must keep the pupils indoors because they can't risk protecting them so they can play outdoors. We understand the legal risks, but it is not a problem we have ever had."

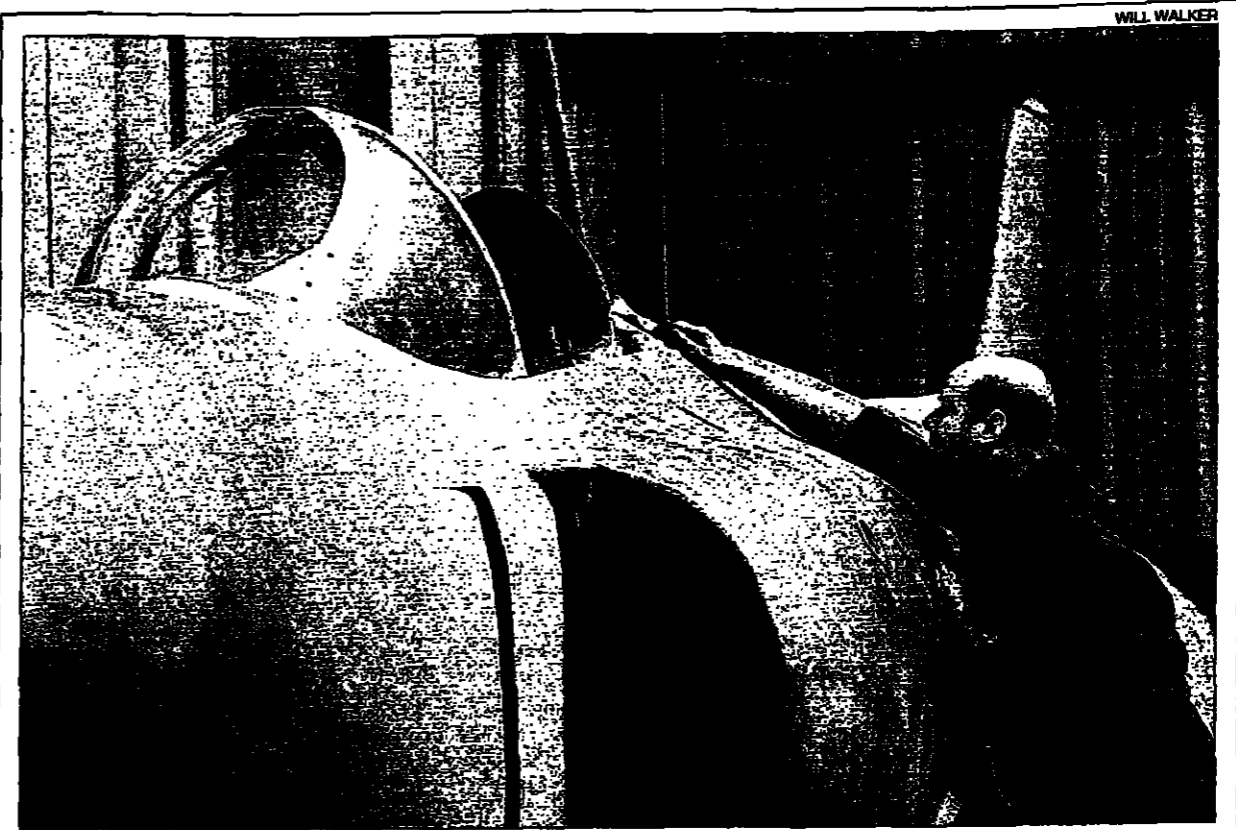
"Children as young as five can't put cream on themselves and they need help. Parents need to know when they leave their children at the school

gates that they are being properly looked after and helped if it is hot weather."

Martin Pilkington, the head of legal member services for the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said he had never come across a case against a teacher based around a sunscreen incident. "We recognise the importance of children being properly protected from the sun. Small children cannot apply sunscreen themselves, so it has to be up to the teachers. We would, however, advise teachers to apply it in the presence of another member of staff."

Yesterday the Department for Education and Employment said it would not be issuing guidelines on sunscreen. A spokesman said: "How much can we advise on? Whether to wipe the running noses of children too? We cannot go this far on everything, as these issues are left to local education authorities as the employers of the teachers." Last year there were 117 allegations of child abuse made against teachers in the NASUWT. Of these, 91 have so far proved unfounded.

Education, page 40



Craig Blundred restoring the Supermarine Swift that took the world air-speed record but was sold as scrap

# Farnborough salutes rescued RAF jet with world-class past

By PAUL WILKINSON

A JET fighter that once held the world air-speed record for Britain will go on show next month after being rescued from a scrapyard.

Thousands of visitors to the 50th Farnborough Air Show, which opens on September 9, will have their first chance to see the restored aircraft, although it cannot be flown.

The Supermarine Swift entered the record books in 1953 when its test pilot, Mike Lithgow, flew at 737.3mph over the Libyan Desert. Mr Lithgow was killed ten years later test-flying a BAC 1-11 airliner.

The single-seater jet was sold by the RAF when Swifts became obsolete in the early 1960s and found its way to the Unimetal scrapyard at Fallsworth, Manchester. It lay there almost forgotten for several years until discovered in 1981 by aviation archaeologists from the North East Aircraft Museum in Washington, Tyne and Wear.

A deal was struck with the yard's owner and the jet was transported on a low-loader



Mike Lithgow flew the Swift at 737.3mph over the Libyan Desert in 1953



to Washington. At first it was put in storage as nobody was available to work on its renovation, but over the past few years, 15 volunteers have been working part-time to return it to its former glory. Although not airworthy, it will otherwise arrive at Farnborough in the same condition as when it was in frontline fighter in the 1950s. The team has replaced panels on the undercarriage, reshaped the damaged nose cone and refitted the cockpit canopy. Helms along the sides have been filled in, the fuselage repainted in the colours of the time and new instruments put in. Craig Blundred, 29, one of the volunteers, said: "Two of the museum's people were in Manchester looking for other aircraft when they stumbled across the Swift in the wrecker's yard. It was in terrible condition, barely recognisable. In the 1960s, planes were put out to tender as scrap when the Services stopped using them. It was before aircraft preservation became the major issue it is today." The jet was built in Southampton by Supermarine, the company that built the Spitfire. Its RAF career was undistinguished and it was quickly downgraded from a fighter to a reconnaissance plane. Mr Blundred said: "It was not successful in military terms because it was dogged by technical problems. It was part of the postwar jet fighter boom and an important step in the history of the British fighter."

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# Poet's brother arrested over damage to grave

## Family expresses anger after fragments of headstone are found in an Irish bog, reports Audrey Magee

THE 32-year-old brother of the Irish poet Patrick Kavanagh was arrested after the shattered fragments of the writer's headstone were found buried in a bog.

Peter Kavanagh was questioned by police for several hours about the headstone, which vanished from the poet's grave in Co Monaghan this week and was replaced with a simple wooden cross and a pile of stones.

Sources said that police found the missing headstone, weighing more than half a tonne, in a bog near the Kavanagh family home in Inniskeen. It had been broken into small fragments with a jump hammer and chisel.

Dr Kavanagh, a lecturer in the United States who is on holiday in Ireland, declined to comment during his interrogation by police at Carrickmacross and was released on Wednesday night without charge. His American son-in-law, Alan Baer, 34, was also arrested and released without charge.

The incident has provoked fury in the poet's extended family, many of whom are deeply upset at the desecration of the grave, where the writer's



Kavanagh: he expressed wish for a simple grave

wife, Catherine, also lies. Eunan O'Hallpin, a nephew of Mrs Kavanagh, said that many family members and friends were profoundly shocked at the destruction of the headstone, which was created by a commemoration committee.

"But even more upsetting is the obliteration of my aunt's name from the grave. This cross is a complete denial of her as a person and as a couple. It is an insult to Kavanagh as well as my aunt," Mr O'Hallpin said.

The couple met at a literary party in London in the early

1960s and married in the spring of 1967; the poet died on November 30 that year. Kavanagh was buried in one of three family plots in Inniskeen, where a simple cross was erected by his brother, who had looked after him.

Dr Kavanagh, who wrote *My Brother's Keeper*, detailing his experience of caring for the poet, was understood to have been deeply upset when a committee of Kavanagh trustees replaced a cross on his grave with an elaborate headstone after the poet's wife died and was buried in the family plot in 1989.

Dr Kavanagh kept the cross in the garden of the family home, insisting that it was the most fitting tribute to his brother, who had written shortly before dying that he wished to be commemorated modestly, "with no hero-courages tomb".

Dr Kavanagh was not available for comment yesterday, but has repeatedly denied any involvement with the alteration of the grave. The police are continuing to investigate the case and may send a file to the Director of Public Prosecutions.



A DARK-WOOD canoe being examined by Stuart Bacon, of the Suffolk Underwater Studies Unit, after its discovery by fishermen off the coast near Dunwich. The 17ft wooden dugout weighs more than a quarter of a tonne and could date back 1,200 years. Although it was dredged up by a trawler at

sea, the site where it was found was once several miles inland and experts say that the canoe would have been used on lakes and rivers in East Anglia. Mr Bacon said: "This is a very important find of national significance. Although it has been buried for centuries, it is in remarkably good condition.

We know from history that the site was once several miles inland, so it was not a sea-going boat. It would have been used on the Broad as long ago as the 8th century." The dugout will now be preserved and stabilised before going on display in a local museum.

## MS woman may move for drug treatment

By IAN MURRAY MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN suffering from multiple sclerosis is considering moving home against her doctor's orders to live in an area where she can be given an expensive, controversial drug which she hopes could improve her condition.

Jacky Boswell, 47, lives at Sawston, a village in the area covered by the Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Authority. She wants to be prescribed beta interferon, a drug costing £10,000 a year per patient, which helps to reduce the frequency and severity of attacks in some patients.

The authority, however, because of the cost of the drug and the lack of conclusive evidence that it is effective for all patients, is refusing to provide it for Mrs Boswell.

Steve Clarke, the acting chief executive, said: "The authority has considered its position on beta interferon on a number of occasions over the last two years and our judgment has been that in the light of growing demands on our resources, we can't fund it."

The authority, which is required to continue to provide leukaemia treatment to "Child B", is one of only five out of the 100 English authorities that does not fund beta interferon treatment.

## £3m fraud team managed only one prosecution

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

A TEAM of fraud investigators was criticised by the Audit Commission yesterday after allegations that its members spent too much time playing cards and swimming around in new BMWs.

Investigations by the 20-strong unit, given a £3 million three-year budget to tackle organised benefit fraud, resulted in only one prosecution, the commission found. It said it took the London Organised Crime Investigation Team 16 months to get started and criticised it for poor record-keeping and management.

In a report yesterday the commission said that, from 98 referrals, the team had so far stopped benefits to two individuals. Five were referred to other agencies and 36 were rejected. No search warrants had been executed, and there were no records of numbers of people involved in prosecutions, records seized or where benefit was stopped but without prosecution.

However, the report said the pilot scheme should be extended for a further three years once its management structure had been improved.

The Loft scheme, set up in April 1996, is funded by the Department of Social Services but managed by the Association of London Government.

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TOMORROW IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

## Hoodie's bet

Police find murder weapon

By PAUL WILKINSON

DETECTIVES have found a weapon they believe was used to batter a trainee teacher to death.

Twenty-five officers are searching for John Thompson, the owner of the house where Rachel Tough, 18, was found on Tuesday evening. His description and details of the murder have been circulated across the country.

Superintendent John Blake, who is leading the inquiry, said: "We are looking at various ways of tracing the homeowner as he has not been in touch."

Miss Tough, a student at the Derwentdale training college in Consett, Co Durham, was found in Mr Thompson's kitchen on the Moorside council estate in the town. His wife, Michelle, and the two youngest of their three sons found the body when they returned home on Tuesday evening.

Miss Tough, who lived six doors away, had suffered a series of blows about the head. Police have not disclosed what the murder weapon was.

Mr Blake said that the motive for the crime was not clear and he was not sure why the victim was in the house.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

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# Waif-like women have a lean time of it with men

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MEN find curvaceous women more attractive than waif-like supermodels, psychologists have discovered. Given the choice between a woman who is underweight and one who is overweight, most males prefer the latter.

"If a young woman gains a stone it doesn't diminish her appeal very much, but if she loses a stone she becomes very unattractive very quickly," said Martin Tovée, of Newcastle University's Psychology Department, who conducted the study published in *The Lancet* today.

The psychologists showed pictures of 50 women to 40 male undergraduates and, after analysing their reactions to the range of shapes and sizes, discovered that very thin women were a turn-off, even those with perfectly proportioned figures. Perceived wisdom has it that the "optimum of attractiveness" is a waist

measurement that is 70 per cent of the hip measurement. Dr Tovée, who specialises in treating eating disorders, said that evolutionary psychology suggested that a woman's sexual attractiveness was based on physical signs of her reproductive potential: the more she looked capable of bearing children, the more a male would be attracted to her.

He decided to find out if men were attracted to women who had a perfectly proportioned figure but were also extremely thin. He recruited ten women drawn from each of five body-mass categories: emaciated, underweight, normal, overweight and obese. Their category depended on their body-mass index, which is calculated by dividing a weight in kilograms by the square of height in metres. Those with an index below 15 were classified as emaciated,

15-19 as underweight, 20-24 as normal, 25-30 as overweight, and above that as obese.

Front-view colour pictures of the bodies and legs of the 50 women, wearing grey leotards and leggings, were shown to the undergraduates, who graded them in order of attractiveness. The most attractive women were found to be those with a body-mass index of between 18 and 21, regardless of the ratio between their hips and waists.

The undergraduates also gave higher marks to the women who were overweight, and even obese, than to those who were very thin or emaciated.

"Most young women in their late teens or early twenties... if they lose weight beyond the ideal, lose their attractiveness very quickly," Dr Tovée said. "What matters is that the body-mass index is right."



Dr Tovée at work on the study into what physical attributes men find attractive in women

# Hunting Duke is a hypocrite, says McCartney

BY CAROL MIDDLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

SIR Paul McCartney has called the Duke of Edinburgh a hypocrite, saying that his role as president emeritus of the World Wide Fund for Nature is at odds with his fondness for shooting birds.

The performer also said that the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds was misguided for not urging its supporters to stop eating meat, as land that could provide natural forests and habitat for birds was being swamped with pesticides and fertilisers to grow fodder for animals.

Sir Paul was being interviewed by the vegetarians' magazine *VivaLife* as a signal that he will continue the work of his wife Linda, who died from cancer in April. Lady McCartney was active in setting up the Brighton-based *Viva!* charity 3½ years ago as part of her campaign to encourage vegetarianism and combat cruelty to animals.

In the interview, Sir Paul said: "President of a wildlife organisation shooting birds — that's hypocrisy. It's not even sport. They choose a bird that doesn't even fly well, a pheasant."

"Let's see him try and shoot swallows — they're not so easy to catch." He recalled an occasion where he and his wife met the Duke. "Because she was an American, she talked to him just like he was a bloke, not all reverent like the British do."

"She said, 'You're head of a worldwide wildlife organisation. How can you go out shooting birds?' 'Are you vegetarian?' he asked, trying to catch us out. 'Yeah, we both

answered.' Sir Paul said that there should be an end to meat subsidies and he pledged to be as active as his wife in the fight for animals, and to continue with her food products.

"It was suggested we should call them Paul McCartney foods, but that sounded too Beatey. It didn't ring true. So it was Linda McCartney, mother and cook," he said.

"So many women subsequently came up to Linda and thanked her, saying they wouldn't have known what to feed their daughters when they went veggie without her stuff in the freezer."

"That was the big thing — Linda made vegetarianism mainstream. The motivation wasn't money or fame — it was if I could just save one animal."

*VivaLife* normally has a circulation of 10,000, but the charity has doubled the latest print run.



The Duke, wildlife head and a keen shot

# 20,000 stray dogs killed each year

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 20,000 dogs are being destroyed every year because they are abandoned by their owners and cannot be found new homes, according to a survey released today.

The most dangerous place for stray dogs is Northern Ireland, where 31 per cent of deaths took place. One in two there is destroyed, compared with an average of one in seven across the United Kingdom. Strays have the best chance of surviving in south-west England, where only one in 100 is put down, according to a survey commissioned by the National Canine Defence League.

Clarissa Baldwin, the league's chief executive, said: "It is heartbreaking that so

many healthy dogs are being needlessly destroyed. When a dog becomes a member of your family, it should be a permanent commitment. The dog cannot choose its owner, but the owners have a choice whether or not to care responsibly for their pets."

Local authorities took in more than 130,000 stray dogs between April 1997 and March 1998, the survey found. Nearly half were reunited with their owners, but the rest were destroyed, found new owners or placed in animal rescue centres.

Many local councils have begun promoting neutering schemes and microchip identification, which makes it easier to trace dogs' owners.

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Katherine Salisbury, 9, from St Albans, with "Prickles" at the launch of the project and, below, a wood mouse

## Garden owners are asked to turn wildlife detectives

By NICK NUTTALL

HOMESOWNERS are being recruited to research the role of the garden in conserving foxes, hedgehogs, wood mice and other British mammals.

Valerie Keeble, of the People's Trust for Endangered Species, said yesterday that there was anecdotal evidence that many mammals were seeking havens in city and town gardens as intensive farming made the countryside less hospitable.

"We now get reports of muntjac deer on inner-city railway lines," she said.

Studies in which hedgehogs have been tagged show that increasing numbers are ending up in gardens. Under a scheme launched yesterday by the Mammal Society and the trust, owners of gardens are being asked to log the animals they see and what measures they take to encourage them, including the kinds of food they put out.

The project, which will run to February 1999, is backed by a booklet to help garden owners to spot tell-tale signs of mammals. Dr Keeble said that eggshells, for example, might mean a fox was bringing food to a garden.

The scheme may also help to produce advice for garden owners who want to exclude less desirable mammals such as grey squirrels. "It may be that if someone has a lot of nut or fruit trees they might have to fell the odd one to deter grey squirrels," Dr Keeble said.

The survey findings will be studied by Professor Stephen Harris, of Bristol University's Zoology Department. George Shearer, of the Mammal Society, said yesterday that the kinds of animals likely to be seen included foxes, wood mice and voles. Some gardens might also be home to visiting roe and muntjac deer, edible dormice, red squirrels and badgers.

People wanting to take part should send a stamped envelope to James Hargreave, Mammal Society, 75 Cloisters House, 8 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4BG.



Villagers opposed to a cull of roe deer in woodland near Horsley in Gloucestershire homes are offering themselves as a "human shield" to prevent the killing.

Every evening the wood echoes to the sound of dogs and local residents making it impossible for a marksman employed by the wood's owner to begin his work. The cull was ordered after an increase in the population of roe deer in the area.

## Parents of Leah Betts flee drug culture

By STEWART TENDLER  
 CRIME CORRESPONDENT

The parents of the Ecstasy victim Leah Betts said yesterday that they are to move to Scotland because their anti-drugs campaign is being ignored.

Paul and Jan Betts said they were tired of trying to make the public realise the risks from drugs. They are still living at Maldon, Essex, but are hoping to move to Skye.

The Bettses' campaign was started after Leah's death in November 1995, when she took Ecstasy at her 18th birthday party. They helped Essex police to pioneer drug action teams, but Mr Betts, a former police inspector, said: "Other than that, Essex has proved the point that a prophet is always without honour in his home. The vast majority of adults in this country accept that the drug culture is here."

He said the Scots were more disciplined and interested in their communities. The courts also had a clear view of drugs and anyone caught with cannabis for the first time was fined £300 and £600 for the second time. On the third occasion, the offender was jailed.

His wife said: "The agencies which people want to turn to are being deprived of money. People get disheartened and give up. The Government has just spent thousands and thousands on a report which says heroin is very cheap and a big problem. We could have told them that two years ago and it wouldn't have cost them anything."

## Curbs sought on reports of freed child sex abusers

Richard Ford on probation chiefs' call for offenders to be housed in secrecy

Sussex, where he spent months while the Prison Service tried in vain to find him a place in a hostel. He is now being held at Blenheim House, a privately run medium-secure unit in Milton Keynes, at a cost of £320 a day.

The Home Office is still looking for permanent accommodation for Oliver, who was to move to a residential home at Wing, Rutland, but turned down the place because of the strict conditions that would have been imposed on him.

Cooke, released this year, is being looked after by Avon and Somerset police at an undisclosed address.

A working party set up by the Government to look at the problem of housing paedophiles freed from jail and not subject to supervision by the Probation Service is considering setting up a single unit to hold 50 offenders. The unit would provide both residential and treatment facilities.

One possibility is for the unit to be built in the grounds of a prison.

But Alun Michael, a Home Office Minister, said he thought that there was no one solution to the problem posed by releasing paedophiles into the community at the end of their sentences. "We need a range of responses in order to make sure the protection is there for different types of target threatened by different types of freed individuals."

Mr Michael confirmed that the Government was still considering whether indeterminate jail terms could be imposed on paedophiles. They would only be released from jail when it was considered there was no risk to the public.

Guy Black, director of the Press Complaints Commission, said that the issue had to be taken seriously. "We recognise that it is a very delicate situation and we need to be sure that any of our suggestions and proposals are going to be workable." He said that, after meeting the association's delegation, the commission would hold talks with the Home Office, police and Guild of Editors.

Roy Copeland, national organiser of the White Ribbon Campaign for Justice, condemned any plan to restrict press coverage of the release of paedophiles. He said: "If we are not aware of where they are being housed, how can parents and schools warn children of the danger?"

## Raped prisoner awarded £20,000

Paul Wilkinson on win for sex offender who suffered in cell

A SEX OFFENDER has won £20,000 from the Prison Service after he was raped by a fellow inmate while sharing a cell. He had claimed damages, alleging that the service failed in its duty of care.

The man, from Teesside, was on remand at Durham prison when subjected to a 12-hour ordeal in a segregation unit. His attacker, Stuart Fawcett, 25, a bodybuilder, later received a three-year sentence for indecent assault and assault occasioning actual bodily harm. During the attack, the victim was repeatedly battered and suffered a broken nose and several ribs. His head was shaved and his chest covered with cigarette burns.

The victim, a married man, was on remand in 1991 before being jailed for the attempted rape of a girl of 8. He was in the segregation unit for his own safety, but was left unobserved overnight in the same cell as Fawcett.

Fawcett had asked to be in the segregation unit for his own protection because he was charged with attacking a man of 78 with a chair leg during a burglary.

The sex offender was released from prison in October 1996. The out-of-court settlement over his negligence claim came three weeks before the case was scheduled to be heard at Middlesbrough County Court. A psychiatric report for the hearing described him as "timid, with borderline intelligence, and emotionally immature." The attack left him almost blind in his left eye, with nightmares and a fear of people and crowds.

Gary Johnson, the victim's solicitor, said: "This payout should increase protection for prisoners, and should encourage those who are attacked to sue for damages. The prison authorities know that these things go on." A Prison Service spokesman said there had been no admission of liability. The settlement was not the first for a male sexual assault on a fellow male inmate.

The victim claimed that, as an alleged sex offender, he should not have been made to share a cell with someone with a record for violence. He also said that surveillance was inadequate.

Fawcett, from Middlesbrough, was also on remand. Documents disclosed for the damages case show that, since then, he has been the subject of 27 reports for misbehaviour in prison. The Home Office said that he did not have a significant record for violence.

He had no history of sexual offending or assaulting fellow prisoners, so it was not predictable that he would assault his cellmate. The Home Office also claimed that such violence could not be prevented unless vulnerable prisoners were put in permanent solitary confinement.

هكذا من الإهل

# The twilight of a port that led the world

By RUSSELL JENKINS

NIGHT is falling fast over Liverpool docks, the lamp-lighters have done their work and decent folk are hurrying home to abandon the damp thoroughfare to drunken sailors and streetwalkers.

They scurry on foot and by horse-drawn carriage beside the tall ships moored in Salthouse Dock and past the neo-classical lines of the port's old Customs House and a row of brightly lit shops.

The artist has picked out advertisements for Cadbury's on a quayside boarding and the fishmonger's wares, including a row of hung game, in intricate detail as if to emphasise that this is a real place inhabited by real people.

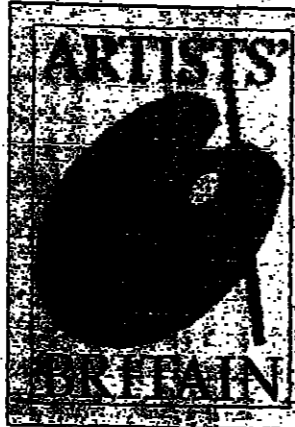
As in many of the works by the Victorian painter Atkinson Grimshaw, an everyday, almost squalid, urban scene has been rendered poetic, if not magical, by the fading light and, in this case, the showy use of lamplight.

The Customs House, Liverpool, Looking North was painted in 1887 when Grimshaw was at the height of his powers and Merseyside, the stepping-off point for those emigrating westward, was a maritime power at the hub of an international trade, fattened by the profits of slavery.

In the painting, sailing ships, their rigging a ghostly filigree, are lined up beside Albert Dock ready to discharge their cargoes of raw cotton, tobacco, wines and spirits. Salthouse Dock is still there today, but its moorings lie empty and Albert Dock, long since abandoned as a working warehouse, has been reborn as a tourist attraction, home to Granada Television studios, the Tate Gallery, shops, offices and apartments.

Over the century that separates us from Grimshaw, maritime trade has moved to the container port and the street scene has been transformed. There is little left that Victorians would recognise.

The Customs House, de-



Today *The Times* continues its series of low scenes depicted by British artists have changed.

Next Atkinson Grimshaw's 1887 Customs House, Liverpool, 1887.

signed by the corporation architect John Foster, was the city's most imposing building when it opened in 1837. It was badly damaged by the Luftwaffe in 1941 and was demolished in 1947.

These days an eight-lane road carries traffic to the city centre past the Merseyside police headquarters, a fortified and utilitarian 1980s brick building and a fire station.

Canning Place, a set of unlovely, modern glass-and-concrete municipal offices standing on the site of the old Customs House, proved so brutal that they have been abandoned and are themselves due for demolition.

Only a solitary black anchor, bearing no inscription, harks back to the area's vivid past. Near by, a ceramic wall on the back of a social security building bears the legend: "In 1715 facing this site Thomas Steers engineer built the first enclosed commercial dock in Britain."

In the middle distance, the Liver Building, with its two mythical birds nesting on the roof, and the grander Cunard Building testify to the wholesale reconstruction of Liverpool's Pier Head around the turn of the century. Only the street names - Paradise Street, Mariner's Parade and Customs House Lane - remain from a bygone era.

The painting is one of three Atkinson Grimshaws at the

the artist's Glasgow docks by moonlight. It is a matter of historical record that the Cornishian columns in the painting are inaccurate.

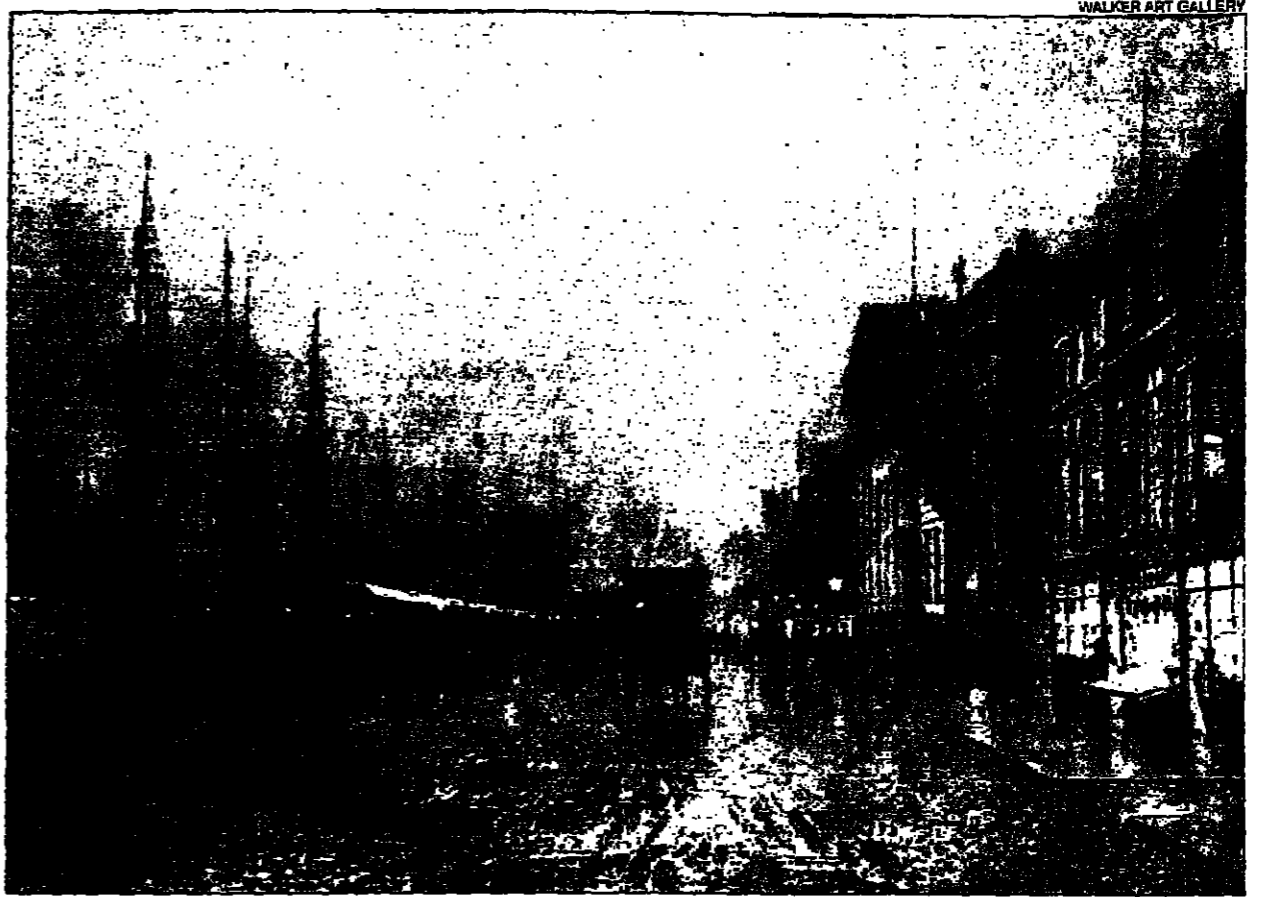
"Some people have questioned the topographical accuracy of these pictures," Dr Treuhertz said. "He takes an artist's licence. There is no doubt about it. Some of them were indeed meant to be Liverpool, but they are not quite as accurate as all that."

John Atkinson Grimshaw (1836-1893), the son of a policeman, was a prolific artist with a large family to support, patrons to satisfy, and servants and a carriage and pair to keep up. He had no formal training and, in his early years, had to resist the opposition of his Baptist mother, who threw his paints on the fire and turned off the gas in his room.

Dr Treuhertz believes that even these cityscapes show the influence of his mentor, Whistler. He was forever condemned to live in the shadow of greater artists.

The Customs House, Liverpool, Looking North is on display in the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool.

Next: Turner's sketch of East Cowes Castle



The Customs House, badly damaged in the last war and demolished in 1947, dominates the 1887 painting



No landmark left from the Victorian scene: the Liver Building in the background was built in the 1900s

## Duchess of talk gets own TV show

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE Duchess of York is to host her own talk show on Sky, the station has confirmed. She will present a series of ten one-hour programmes provisionally titled *Surviving Life*.

They will be screened on Sky One from October 5 and the duchess will donate her appearance fee - £5,000 per show - to a number of designated charities, relevant to the topics debated in each broadcast. Recording is expected to start in September. The duchess will be dealing with different topics in each show in front of a studio audience.

She has already made appearances in America on commercials and talk shows and impressed Sky executives during filming sessions in recent weeks. Elisabeth Murdoch, general manager of broadcasting at Sky Television, said: "We are delighted to have the opportunity to work with Sarah and for Sky One to be the home of her British television debut."

"Having been through so much in her own life, Sarah has a unique ability to connect with other people by sharing common experiences. What we have discovered is that she is a natural in front of the camera and has a real talent for television. Sarah's warmth, understanding and infectious sense of humour create a relaxed and intimate environment that brings out the best in her guests."

During the series, she will lead audience discussions on a series of social issues. "This is a new venture for me and I am greatly looking forward to the challenge," the duchess said yesterday. "Surviving Life will be about people and the real problems that they face in society today."

Television, page 47

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Leeson asks for early release

Lawyers for Nick Leeson have applied for his early release from prison in Singapore, the British High Commission said. Stephen Pollard, his lawyer in London, said the process normally took one or two months, but "we hope this one goes faster". Leeson, 31, whose trading brought down Barings Bank, is serving 6½ years. He has had a tumour removed from his colon but the cancer has spread to his lymph nodes.

### Close call

A workman trapped under a 45-tonne crane rang his wife on a mobile telephone to tell her he had been in "a bit of an accident". David Worthington, 58, was later flown to hospital in Preston, Lancashire, suffering from serious leg injuries.

### Historic catch

A dug-out wooden canoe thought to date from the eighth century was dredged up by a fishing trawler off Dranwich, Suffolk. The site was once several miles inland, and experts say that the 17ft craft would have been used on lakes and rivers of the Broads.

### £6m toy sale

The London Toy and Model Museum is for sale at £6 million. The museum, housed in two Victorian houses in Bayswater, West London, features a collection of some 7,000 objects, a café, shop and garden through which a steam train runs.

### Riding death

A boy aged 14 died from spinal injuries after he was thrown from his pony. He was riding in a field with his mother on their farm near Banbury, Oxfordshire. Police said that his mother did not see the accident and found him lying on the ground.

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# New run on rouble widens Russian woe

RUSSIA plummeted into a new political and economic crisis yesterday, as the Government struggled to defend the ailing rouble and the stock market plunged into a free fall. The situation was exacerbated by the continuing absence of President Yeltsin, enjoying his summer holiday while seemingly oblivious to his country's latest woes.

Trading was temporarily suspended on Russia's stock exchange for the second time in the week, with stock prices falling by 15 per cent and a new run on the rouble amid calls for devaluation. The central bank intervened to protect the Russian currency by imposing new trading restrictions, prohibiting banks from amassing stockpiles of foreign currency.

Sergei Kiriyenko, the Prime Minister, attempted to play down the latest crisis, reaffirming the Government's determination to carry out its austerity programme and blaming the latest turmoil on psychological reactions.

"There are at present no financial grounds for a deterioration in the situation on the markets," he said.

The Interfax news agency reported last night that Mr Yeltsin, holidaying in the northwest region of Valdai, had discussed the latest developments with Mr Kiriyenko by telephone and emphasised

## Yeltsin carries on holidaying amid calls for devaluation of struggling currency, Robin Lodge writes

the importance of pursuing the Government's austerity programme.

The decision to take time off at such a delicate moment is characteristic of President Yeltsin who appears to alternate between frenzied activity, with repeated television appearances showing him castigating underlings or issuing stern political directives, and extended absences from the Kremlin, which have fre-



Soros wants the rouble pegged to dollar or euro

quently led to speculation about the state of his health. Mr Kiriyenko said earlier that the economic situation had showed a marked improvement over the past month, with an increase in the central bank's currency reserves and indications of an improvement in the collection of tax revenues. However, his reassurances did little to stabilise the markets, which appear to be in free fall with no buyers showing interest in Russian stocks. Major companies suffered crippling losses, especially in the energy sector, where shares fell by 18 per cent in early trading.

The dramatic developments came after the publication yesterday in the *Financial Times* of a letter from George Soros, the multimillionaire financier, who issued a warning that the turmoil in the markets had reached "a terminal stage" and called for early devaluation and the introduction of a currency pegged to the dollar or the euro.

His views were echoed by leading Russian economists. Andrei Ilarionov, director of the Russian Government's In-

stitute of Economic Analysis, said it was now clear that inflation was inevitable and that when it came it would be serious. Only the earliest possible devaluation of the rouble would lead Russia out of the crisis.

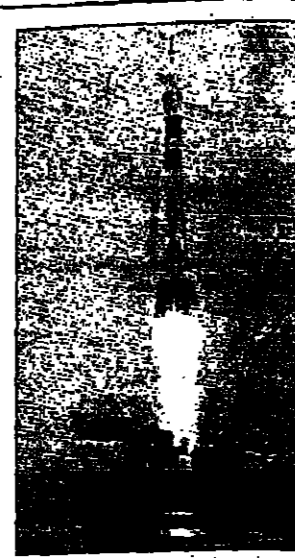
In his letter, Mr Soros called for the creation of a currency board to support a pegged rouble, set at 15 to 20 per cent below its current rate to reflect the impact of falling oil prices. This would require funds of \$50 billion (£30 billion), to be provided by Russia's own reserves of about \$18 billion, plus \$17 billion in assistance already pledged by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and a further \$15 billion which he said should be made available by the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations.

The Russian Government, however, is adamantly opposed to devaluation, fearing that such a move would precipitate a total collapse of the currency. Denis Kiselyov, deputy chairman of the central bank, insisted that the situation was well under control and dismissed calls for devaluation, which he said would simply play into the hands of currency speculators while doing nothing to restore confidence in the economy.

Leading article, page 21  
Market turmoil, page 25



Yuri Baturin, centre, with fellow crew Gennadi Padalka, left, and Sergei Avdeyev before lift-off, top. Mr Baturin will return to Earth soon after docking with Mir



## Bureaucrat blasts off for Mir

Balkonur: Russia has blasted its first bureaucrat into space to visit the 12-year-old Mir space station with two professional cosmonauts.

The TM28 spacecraft carrying Yuri Baturin, 49, a former defence adviser to President Yeltsin, was launched from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan yesterday morning and is scheduled to dock with Mir tomorrow.

Gennadi Padalka, 40, the commander, and Sergei Avdeyev, 42, the flight engineer, will stay on Mir for six months. Mr Baturin, who left President Yeltsin's staff in February, will return to Earth around August 25 with the present Mir crew. (Reuters)

## Albanian turmoil as Serbs capture key Kosovo towns

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

KOSOVO'S ethnic Albanians appeared in political and military turmoil yesterday as a new cross-party negotiating team fell apart and rumours grew of a bloody feud between factions of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) as it struggled to defend its western headquarters against a brutal Serb offensive.

Christopher Hill, America's diplomatic envoy in the region, spent the day cajoling the Albanians towards announcing a five-member team for peace talks with Belgrade. But by midway through the afternoon, the KLA had issued a statement from its unidentified "general staff", possibly in Switzerland, offering five different names to represent the guerrillas. Compromise between the rival Albanians seemed impossible.

On the military front, their position seemed even more hopeless. Serb police and paramilitaries overran the village of Glogjane, the KLA's

main forward base in the Decane region, and began the systematic destruction of nearby Prilep, a village that they had obviously tired of taking and retaking from the guerrilla forces over the past three months.

Several other villages in the area were also under attack, and aid agencies feared another refugee exodus. At least eight Albanians and a similar number of Serb police were said to have died in the attack on Glogjane.

The remaining obstacle in the way of the police and the Yugoslav Army is the border town of Junik, a sprawling settlement with a long rebel tradition and the main conduit for the weapons trade in this conflict between Albania and the Kosovo interior. The Serbs launched a heavy offensive against Junik on Tuesday but later eased off, as sources claimed that the ethnic Albanian resistance was self-destructing.

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# Swiss pay \$1.25bn to end feud with Holocaust Jews

## Threat of US sanctions against banks lifted as part of historic settlement, James Bone reports from New York

SWISS banks are to pay \$1.25 billion (£767 million) to Holocaust survivors in a settlement with Jewish groups that should end the rancorous debate over Switzerland's dealings with Nazi Germany.

The agreement, brokered by a court in the Brooklyn area of New York, commits the Swiss banks to pay the money over the next three years into a "rough justice" fund for victims of the Nazi era whose assets were plundered during the war or simply lost in Swiss bank accounts afterwards.

In return, lawyers have agreed to abandon a class-action suit against the Swiss on behalf of tens of thousands of Holocaust survivors, and American states and municipalities will cancel threatened financial sanctions.

The accord covers the Swiss central bank and the Swiss Government, as well as the Swiss banks, even though the Government had refused to negotiate directly with the class-action plaintiffs.

"I think finally the Swiss did the right thing," said Abraham Foxman, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and a Holocaust survivor, who played a key role in the negotiations. "It is important for everyone to bring closure to this issue. It took the Swiss a while to be able to confront history and understand that their enemy is not the Jewish people, but history."

Tens of thousands of Holocaust victims deposited money in Swiss banks for safekeeping as the Nazis gained power in Europe. After the war, however, bank officials made it hard for many of the survivors and their heirs to retrieve the money, claiming they could not find the accounts or demanding death certificates.

The legal battle began in New York two years ago when an Auschwitz survivor from Romania, Gisella Weissbeaus, who lost her parents and six siblings in the death camp, sued the banks to recover her family's funds.

The litigation grew into a \$20 billion class-action suit representing 31,500 plaintiffs worldwide after a Swiss bank night-watcher, Christoph Meili, inspired by the film *Schindler's List*, rescued Holocaust-era documents from a shredder room at the Union Bank of Switzerland in Zurich.

Only a few months ago, Switzerland's two largest banks — Credit Suisse and UBS — had offered to pay \$600 million to settle all claims. But Jewish groups, who place the current value of Holocaust victims' assets in Swiss banks at between \$6 billion and \$7 billion, rejected the offer and demanded at least \$1.5 billion.

Local politicians in 20 US states and 30 municipalities, including California and New York, threatened to impose sanctions on the Swiss banks that would hamper their ability to do business in the US. The move provoked howls of protest from the Swiss Government, backed by the wary US State Department.

But the American politicians who gathered on the steps of the Brooklyn courthouse to announce the deal on Wednesday said the threat of sanctions had prodded the banks towards a settlement.

Under the deal, the Swiss banks will pay the first \$250 million 90 days after US District Court Judge Edward Korman approves the settlement, and further instalments of \$333 million on the first, second and third anniversary of his approval.

The judge and lawyers in the class-action suit are to work out a distribution plan to determine how the money will reach the plaintiffs and others. Because of the scope of the "rough justice" fund, even Holocaust survivors who could not prove they deposited money in Swiss banks would benefit from the settlement.

The fund is to be administered by expanding a panel of the World Organisation of Jewish Refugee Organisations set up to handle established claims on missing accounts.

Mr Foxman, who expects to sit on the board, said that after disposing of legal claims the money would be used to help indigent Holocaust survivors and Jewish charitable institutions that promote memory of the Holocaust.

British Jews expressed satisfaction about the deal, but stressed that the money should be distributed rapidly.

As part of the settlement, the original whistleblower, Mr Meili, who was driven from Switzerland by death threats and now works as a building guard in New Jersey, agreed to drop his lawsuit against his former employers.

Senator Alfonse D'Amato of New York, who chaired congressional hearings on the Swiss banks, lavished praise on him, hugging him as the deal was announced. "This young man is a beacon of inspiration," he said. "Had you not done the work you did, we wouldn't be here today."

Estelle Sapir, a Holocaust survivor aged 73, is held by her niece, Jeannette Bernstein, at the court yesterday



Estelle Sapir, a Holocaust survivor aged 73, is held by her niece, Jeannette Bernstein, at the court yesterday

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A Holocaust survivor, 97-year-old Jacob Gross, shows the concentration camp number on his arm outside the court where the \$1.25bn deal was announced

# Too little, too late, for the survivors the world chose to forget

FROM ROGER BOYSS IN WARSAW

THROUGH a long courtyard, up a wooden staircase that smells of stale beer, into a room piled high with yellowing newspapers, there lives Dorota who, an age ago, was called Zara Szwarcman.

She survived the Holocaust because her mother threw her out of a train bound for the camps. The family perished in the gas chambers, although a distant cousin recently appeared from France, and she lived, adopted by Polish farmers and later made a good marriage with a handsome non-Jew who advanced in the pro-

Communist Peasants Party. Her name, and her Jewish identity, became distant memories.

Dorota lives in the rundown Praga district of Warsaw, and although only 66 she talks, and walks like a stiff-jointed marionette. For her, Swiss money would buy a heater for the winter, something to fight the damp on the wall and ease the arthritis.

It is doubtful she would qualify for the funds promised by the Swiss bankers. Will the money go to the largely uncompensated camp survivors of Eastern Europe, to Jewish forced labourers, to those crippled by Nazi brutality? Dorota does not qualify on any of these

counts. She merely survived. "Money is always useful, but I don't want it from them. My father was a tailor and did not have a Swiss account. I don't even feel particularly Jewish."

The distribution of the Swiss bank money may be more complex and more divisive than anyone has realised. Some \$250 million (£153 million) of the total should be handed out to emergency cases within 90 days, say Jewish community organisers. "We have to remember we're up against a biological deadline," said John Sacher of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. That is certainly true and local renaissance Jewish com-

munities in Central Europe have been collecting names and addresses for five years.

But these lists exclude more than they include. The region has a tradition of assimilation. It was the Nazis who ripped these communities apart.

The wariness of many assimilated Jews towards official Jewish organisations has lingered on. Like Dorota, they prefer to keep their distance — even if that means being left off the mailing list for Swiss cheques. The German experience of compensating Holocaust victims points to the problems awaiting the Swiss. Germany has given out DM100 billion (£34.6

billion) in compensation, but most of this money has been channelled through bureaucrats.

Latterly compensation has been earmarked for Jewish old people's homes and medical services, but before that fund administrators would ask humiliating questions about the mental and physical health of the survivors. The Jewish Claims Conference — which has secured the promise of another DM200 million from Bonn for East European Jews — is relatively free of bureaucracy and has found ways of getting help to people.

Naturally, the Swiss gesture is too little, too late. Holocaust victims should have been given special treatment, though compensation funds from Germany have poured into the patients' accounts which are supervised by a government agency. Only now have Holocaust survivor organisations been able to unlock this money to ensure that these people, whose minds are still trapped in Auschwitz, can have well-equipped hospices and dedicated therapists.

The Swiss are famous for their competence in handling money. They, together with the World Jewish Congress, should ensure that the money to be released is spent wisely, helping the people that the world — and not just the Swiss — chose to forget.

# Cash 'seized' in wartime Palestine

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

THE British Government is investigating claims that the equivalent of \$600 million (£375 million at today's prices) was confiscated mainly from European Jews in Palestine during the Second World War.

The claim was made by Yona Yahav, chairman of the Israeli parliamentary committee on banking, and reported in the Israeli press.

He said the funds were taken mainly from European Jews who had lived in coun-

tries under Nazi occupation and fled to Palestine during the period of British rule.

The money was seized by the British Custodian of Enemy Property as "enemy assets", the *Jerusalem Post* reported yesterday. It said the fate of the funds remains a mystery.

According to one theory, the assets were transferred to British banks between 1940 and 1942 and were returned to the Anglo-Palestine Bank, lat-

er renamed Bank Leumi. Mr Yahav said that in 1980 Eliezer Kaplan, Finance Minister, and David Horowitz, Governor of the Bank of Israel, signed an agreement with Britain agreeing to forgo at least some of the confiscated funds, in return for Britain lifting a ban on the supply of gas, oil and arms to Israel.

Mr Yahav raised the issue with Lord Sandwell, who was appointed by the British Government to investigate the issue of enemy property.

The *Post* quoted Howard Ewing, an aide to Lord Sandwell, as saying that, while the issue fell outside the inquiry's terms of reference, the matter had been raised with the British Government, which is "looking into the issue as a matter of urgency".

Mr Ewing pointed out that the 1950 agreement included the payment by Britain of £1 million. But Mr Yahav said there was no reason why Britain should not repay all the assets in full, and he has applied for a grant to enable a university in Israel to research the issue in government and bank archives.

# Capitol family ire over writs

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

FOUR family members of the man accused of killing two police officers at the US Capitol were served with subpoenas to appear before a grand jury when they visited him in hospital.

Russell Weston's parents, his sister and brother-in-law protested to a judge yesterday about the "insensitivity" of the action by federal prosecutors. The family had travelled from Illinois to Washington to see Mr Weston, still seriously ill and shackled to a bed under heavy police guard after the shooting two weeks ago.

Their visit was interrupted so that the subpoenas could be served, preventing them from returning home. Mr Weston's lawyers were granted an emergency court hearing to try to block the subpoenas, but the judge did not issue an immediate ruling.

Mr Weston's parents, Russell and Arbah Jo Weston, said they did not object to testifying about their son's actions in the days before the shootings, but it was unfair to be served with subpoenas in such a way.

# Kabila regime calls for slaughter of the Tutsis

FROM SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA

GOVERNMENT officials in the Democratic Republic of Congo yesterday resorted to the use of hate radio to exhort citizens to take up gardening implements and slaughter Tutsis in the east, reflecting increasing desperation in President Kabila's internationally friendly regime.

The radio message, which called on Congolese to "bring a machete, a spear, an arrow, a hoe, spades, rakes, nails, truncheons, electric irons, barbed wire, stones and the like, in order, dear listeners, to kill the Rwandan Tutsis", is a chilling echo of broadcasts that inspired the genocide of a million Tutsis in Rwanda four years ago.

"Wherever you see a Rwandan Tutsi, regard him as your enemy. We shall do everything possible to free ourselves from the grip of the Tutsis," the radio said — flying in the face of promises from the Government in Kinshasa to reduce anti-Tutsi xenophobia.

The broadcasts came as French media reports said that President Chirac had met anti-Kabila groups in Paris several times over the past month.

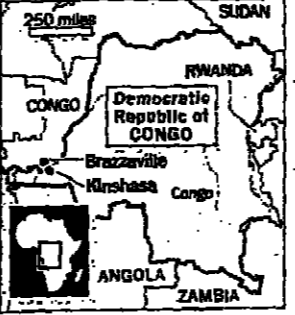
In backing the Tutsi uprising that began two weeks ago, Paris, which traditionally has considered Tutsis as the vanguard of an anglophone conspiracy to dominate Central Africa, appears to have swapped sides and calculated that anyone but Mr Kabila would be better for Congo. The views of the Elysée Palace are shared by Western and local businessmen, and human rights groups in the capital, whose hopes have faded that Mr Kabila's regime (which came to power with Tutsi backing 15 months ago) would be an improvement on the kleptocracy of Mobutu Sese Seko.

Instead, government departments, which were run by committed ministers anxious to rebuild their country, were far worse than under the late Mobutu," said a prominent European businessman with decades of experience in the former Zaire.

Other business leaders agreed. They fear arrest and detention without trial as much as Mr Kabila's own citizens, including his ministers: four were jailed without trial earlier this year.

Another business leader said: "Under Mobutu, one knew the game more or less, commitments made were held to. Here, they want 10 per cent up front on estimated future profits from non-existent mines before they have earned a penny. Then they seem also to consider that any profits made, or personal income earned, in this country is theirs because it was made in Congo. Why anyone would want to invest here beats me. We're all on the verge of giving up."

President Kabila's tenure has been marked by a staggering ability to offend all potential allies. Earlier this year he accused President Museveni of Uganda, whose troops also helped to install him, of being a "coffee and gold smuggler". Then, a month ago and without warning, Mr Kabila expelled the Rwandan officer corps which controlled his army — having done nothing to help them to clear Hutu extremist militia and Ugandan rebels from the east of the country.



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FBI quiz  
fire held  
in Kenya

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# Tearful Clinton pays tribute to bomb victims

TEARS streaming unchecked down his face, President Clinton led the mourning as the flag-draped coffins of ten Americans killed in the Nairobi bomb blast were brought home yesterday.

Fighting to control his emotions, Mr Clinton spoke of how he and the nation shared the sorrow of the families of the dead and reiterated his determination to catch the killers.

Just days before a pivotal day of his presidency — his encounter with the grand jury — the President privately met members of the families of those who had been killed, before the service at Andrews Air Force Base, near Washington.

Afterwards, as he entered Hangar 3 holding hands with his wife Hillary, he looked emotional. Then, with the television networks transmitting the scene live across America, as a military band played the hymn *Nearer My God to Thee* and the names of the dead were solemnly intoned, the coffins were brought out the plane and he let tears roll down his cheeks.

Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, was also

## A grief-stricken President vows to hunt down bombers, reports

Damian Whitworth

weeping. There were only ten coffins at the service, as one American had been taken to Florida the day before and another is to be buried in Kenya. But President Clinton spoke of all 12 who were killed in his eulogy.

"Nothing can bring them back, but nothing can erase the lives they led, the difference they made, the joy they brought," he said, addressing relatives and friends, many of them holding pictures of the dead, who packed the gleaming hangar. "We can only hope that even in grief you can take pride and solace in the gratitude all the rest of us have for the service they gave."

He said that those killed were a microcosm of America.

"They came from diverse backgrounds. They are a portrait of America today and America's future." Referring to his meetings with the families and friends of those killed, he added: "What one classmate said of his friend today we can say of all of them: they are what America is all about."

He also spoke to the families of the Africans who made up the vast majority of the 250 killed and 5,000 injured in the twin bombings. "We also remember the Kenyans and Tanzanians who have suffered great loss. We are grateful for your loved ones who worked alongside us."

And he repeated his previous sentiments about America's determination to hunt down the perpetrators of the attacks. "No matter what it takes, we must find those responsible for these evil acts and see that justice is done. There may be more hard road ahead, for terrorists target America because we act and stand for peace and democracy. But America will not retreat from the world and its promise, nor shrink from our responsibility to stand against terror and with the friends of



An emotional President Clinton and his wife Hillary watch the arrival of the flag-draped coffins of Americans killed in the Nairobi bombing

freedom everywhere. We owe it to those we honour today. As it is written, their righteous deeds have not been forgotten. Their glory will not be blotted out. Their bodies were buried

in peace, but their names shall live forever. May they find peace in the warm embrace of God. And may God give peace to those who love them and bless their beloved country."

Mr Clinton has never been shy about appearing misty-eyed in public, for example when attending national disasters. At the memorial service for the two policemen shot

at the Capitol, Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, was seen to have a tear streaking his cheek. Weeping has not always been accepted by American

politicians. When Ed Muskie was campaigning for the presidency, ill-timed tears ruined his bid.

Photograph, page 24

# Saudi extremist built network of fanaticism

By MICHAEL DYNER

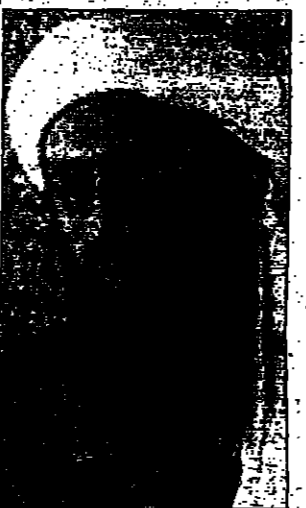
OSAMA BIN LADEN, the renegade Saudi multimillionaire thought to be behind the East African embassy bombings that killed 257 and injured 5,000, has created a new terrorist organisation with the support of Iranian and other Islamic extremists.

Evidence has emerged that the fanatical Saudi dissident, operating from his remote hideout in the Afghan mountains, has brought together a number of terror groups dedicated to the co-ordination of a jihad, or holy war, against America and Israel. Known as the World Islamic Front for Jihad against Jews and Americans, the organisation was created on February 15 after a meeting between Mr bin Laden, 45, and other Islamic extremists in an attempt to broaden their fight against Israel and the US, according to intelligence sources.

During the meeting, Mr bin Laden and a senior member of Iran's Revolutionary Guards agreed to combine their efforts to oppose the US, provide assistance to Muslims in Bosnia and Kosovo, and train a new generation of Muslim extremists, according to an article in the latest edition of *Jane's Foreign Report*.

The article is backed up by a brazen interview Mr bin Laden gave on May 28 to ABC, the US television network, in which he said that a "higher council" had been created "to co-ordinate jihad against Israel". Mr bin Laden said his followers did not "differentiate between those dressed in military uniforms and civilians. They are all targets".

Mr bin Laden told ABC:



Bin Laden: at the top of US list of suspects

"We believe the biggest thieves in the world are Americans, and the biggest terrorists on earth are Americans." He added: "The only way for us to defend these assaults is by using similar means."

On June 12, the State Department issued a warning naming him as a potential

## TERROR LINKS

terrorist threat, and tightened security arrangements at its diplomatic missions throughout the Middle East. The new security arrangements were not extended to Africa.

Like thousands of other young Muslims, Mr bin Laden left his native Saudi Arabia to join the holy war against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, aged 19. But he never returned to help in the running of the family construction business, which is the source

of his estimated \$300 million (£184 million) personal fortune.

When the Soviet Union was finally pushed out of Afghanistan, Mr bin Laden moved to Sudan. But in the face of intense pressure from the US, he was expelled in 1994, and returned to Afghanistan's southern city of Kandahar with his three wives under the protection of the extremist Taliban regime. Two years later, he was stripped of his Saudi citizenship for his attacks on the Saudi royal family for allowing the "infidel" US troops to be stationed on Saudi soil — the site of Muslim sacred ground.

Mr bin Laden is reported to have 3,000 followers, who have fought on his instructions in Afghanistan, Somalia, Eritrea, Chechnya, Bosnia, Tajikistan and Yemen, backed up by a web of financial, logistical and strategic assistance to an assortment of Sunni Islamic groups.

Mr bin Laden has been cited by US intelligence as the prime suspect in two fatal bombings against American servicemen in Saudi Arabia, including the death of 19 airmen in Dhahran in 1996. He is also suspected of funding the explosion at New York's World Trade Centre in 1993.

Mr bin Laden's fighters are also thought to have been behind the shooting down of US helicopters in Somalia, killing 18 soldiers, in America's ill-fated Operation Restore Hope. US officials have confirmed that Mr bin Laden is "at the top of the list" of suspects because he is known to have an extensive terrorist network operating in Africa.

# Envoy made plea to relocate embassy

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE US Ambassador to Kenya, Prudence Bushnell, who was praised after being wounded in last week's bombing and then working to organise the rescue operation, had begged Washington to move her embassy to a safer location.

Ms Bushnell was apparently so alarmed by the vulnerability of the compound — just 30ft from a busy main road — that she sent three letters to the State Department. The first message was sent last December, and another in May went straight to Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State. In a note written on the bottom, she asked Ms Albright to come and see the embassy herself.

Ms Albright did not pay a visit, and both requests for money for a new building were turned down. The United States Central Command, the arm of the Pentagon that oversees military interests in East Africa, had backed Ms Bushnell's pleas.

As news of the messages leaked out, the State Department admitted that it had regarded Nairobi as less vulnerable than a number of

## COST OF SAFETY

other embassies which also needed cash for security.

"She indicated that resource constraints were endangering embassy personnel," said Patrick Kennedy, Assistant Secretary for Administration. "Unfortunately, we simply lack the money to respond immediately to all the needs of embassy construction."

Thomas Pickering, Under-Secretary of State, insisted later that the money would not have prevented last week's attack. "Even had we had the money to operate on Ambassador Bushnell's recommendations, we would still be in the early phase of construction right now."

The White House said that President Clinton would ask Congress for emergency funds to upgrade security at missions around the world after a security report is ready. He is likely to request hundreds of millions of dollars and he is not likely to be refused. "This terrorist threat must be countered," said Senator Ted Stevens, Republican chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

# FBI quiz five held in Kenya

Nairobi: Five people are being questioned in connection with last Friday's bomb attack on the US Embassy in Kenya, investigators said at a press conference called jointly by the Kenyan police and the FBI (David Orr writes).

It is not believed those arrested are prime suspects in the hunt for those behind the attack, and no decision has yet been made on any charges. The Kenyan CID declined to name those detained or reveal their nationalities.

They had been picked up because of "suspicious activities", and one of them had been pointed out to the police by an American and arrested soon after the blast.

Sheila Horan, FBI special agent in charge, said they had almost certainly found the vehicle used in the attack. Forensic agents had identified "certain parts of the delivery vehicle".

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# Stars raise \$2m for Clintons' legal fight

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

HOLLYWOOD is stumping up to help Bill and Hillary Clinton out of the financial crisis caused by their huge legal bills.

Some of Tinseltown's biggest names have rallied to the First Couple's side, shelling out the maximum annual contribution of \$10,000 (£5,170) to the Clinton Legal Expense Trust, which has garnered more than \$2 million since late February by taking aim at Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor.

They include Barbra Streisand, Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg and Gail Zappa, widow of the rock musician Frank Zappa. Two others who sent \$10,000 cheques were Mr Spielberg's co-founders of the Dreamworks studio, David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg. There is speculation that Mr Clinton will join the board of Dreamworks after he leaves office.

Mr Geffen told *The New York Times* that he wished he could have given more. He

said: "There's a well-financed group of zealots who want to bring down the President, and this guy has no money."

Even with the \$2 million from 8,000 contributors, the Clintons are well short of covering their lawyers' costs, estimated at \$6 million and with the potential to reach \$10 million before their legal woes

are resolved. Still, the new fund has done better than an earlier one which raised only \$1.3 million in three years. It was wound up last December, mired in controversy over suspect donations and paying out more in its own legal fees than was being taken in.

The Clintons' legal debts are far beyond the President's

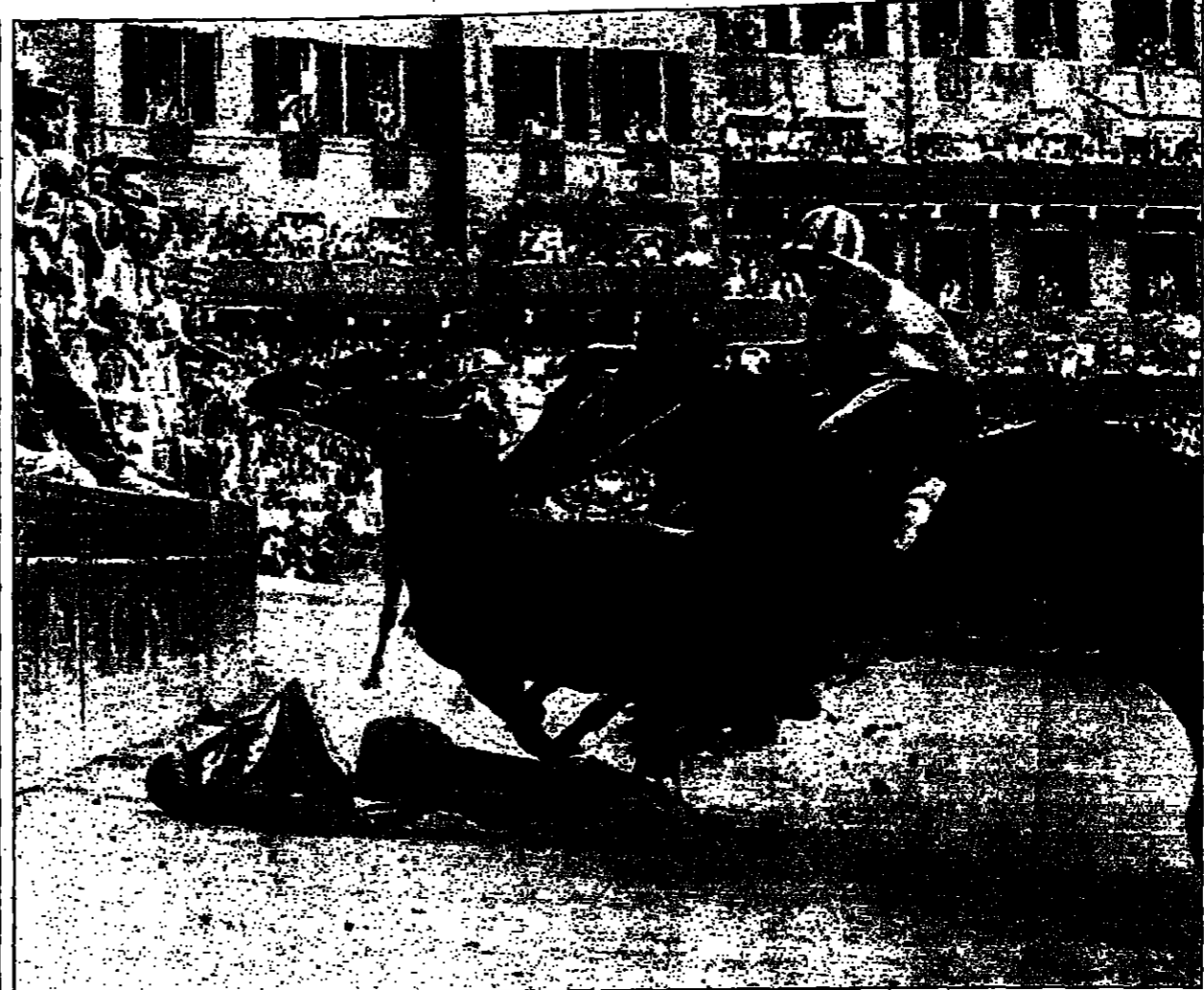
total compensation and his family's net worth, according to the solicitation letter sent to supporters by David Pryor, a former senator from Arkansas who has known Mr Clinton for 30 years. The President's annual salary is \$200,000.

In his pitch for money, Mr Pryor omits any mention of Monica Lewinsky or other allegations against Mr Clinton. Rather, he complains that Mr Starr has spent more than \$40 million of taxpayers' money on his four-year investigation and that Paula Jones's backers continue to fund an appeal against dismissal of her sexual harassment suit.

□ Surgical spirit: Mrs Jones has turned the tables on the cartoonists who poked fun at her beak-like nose by revealing to a nationwide television audience the results of the high-priced plastic surgery paid for by an anonymous donor (James Bone writes). The result is a dramatically shorter and narrower nose, with a rounder tip than before.



Empty trophies in the Starr chambers: a view of the prosecutor by Signe in the *Philadelphia Daily News*

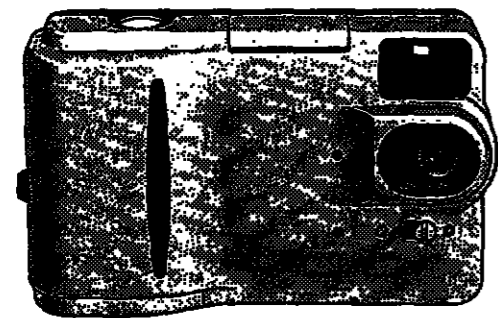


The Palio horse race in Siena, which dates back to medieval times and often results in injuries to riders and their steeds, is a continuing source of controversy between traditionalists and the animal rights lobby

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| ALTRINCHAM | BIRMINGHAM | BODKIN  | BRADFORD | BRIGHTON  | BRIGHTON  | BROMLEY   | CAMBRIDGE   | CANTERBURY | CARDIFF | CHELMSFORD | CHELTENHAM | CHESTER        | COVENTRY      | CRAWLEY   | CROYDON | DERBY   | EDLING     | EDINBURGH | EXETER | GLASGOW    | GLOUCESTER | GUILDFORD | GRIMSBY    |             |                |            |        |         |         |                 |         |          |               |           |      |
| HARROW     | HULL       | IPSWICH | LEEDS    | LEICESTER | LIVERPOOL | LONDON W1 | LONDON SW10 | LONDON EC2 | LUTON   | MANCHESTER | MEADONHALL | MIDDLSEXBOURGH | MILTON KEYNES | NEWCASTLE | NEWPORT | NORWICH | NOTTINGHAM | OXFORD    | PERTH  | PORTSMOUTH | READING    | REDFORD   | SHREWSBURY | SOUTHAMPTON | STOKE-ON-TRENT | SUNDERLAND | SUTTON | SWANSEA | SWINDON | TUNBRIDGE WELLS | WIDFORD | WIMBORNE | WOLVERHAMPTON | WORCESTER | YORK |

BRADFORD NOW OPEN

# Activists force Blair rethink on day at the races

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN SIENA

ANIMAL rights campaigners have forced Tony Blair to reconsider his attendance tonight at the Palio, the traditional bareback horse race in Siena which should have been the highlight of his Tuscan holiday, city officials say.

"We think the Blairs are backing out and will not come after all," one admitted.

The Palio, which has its origins in medieval times, is a short but dramatic no-holds-barred race around the sand-covered Campo, Siena's picturesque central square, with jockeys in Renaissance costume representing ten contrade (guilds).

The Palio itself takes place on Sunday, the Feast of the Assumption, but the Prime Minister and his wife Cherie had hoped to attend the equally tense and exciting rehearsal, which takes place today and is followed by street banquets in each of the contrade districts.

The Blairs leave Italy tomorrow for the South of France, after spending two weeks on the estate of Prince Girolamo Strozzi near San Gimignano, where they were offered hospitality as an alternative to the nearby estate of Geoffrey Robinson, the embattled Paymaster-General, where they spent the past two summer breaks.

Downing Street officials said Mr Blair and his family, including his three children, Euan, Nicholas and Kathryn and his mother-in-law Gale Booth, had enjoyed a fortnight of swimming, tennis and walks on the 1,200-acre Strozzi estate, which has a swimming pool and tennis courts and produces its own wine.

But the Blairs' Tuscan idyll has been dogged by misfortune and controversy, beginning with puzzlement over why they had deserted Mr Robinson because of embarrassment over his financial affairs, only to stay two miles down the road. Prince Strozzi said the fact that he and his wife and two daughters had "given little thought" to where

they would stay when the Blairs arrived had subsequently given rise to mistaken reports that they were being driven out. "I'm afraid some British papers have built obsessively on a misunderstanding. I don't know why," the Prince said.

The Strozzi are staying in a separate wing of their 50-room villa. But the affair has left a question mark over where the Blairs will stay next year. "They are running out of grand Tuscan houses," one expatriate said. Local eyebrows were also raised when the Blairs turned down an invitation to attend an open air production of Verdi's *Rigoletto* in the spectacular setting of San Gimignano's centre, dominated by 13 medieval towers. Yesterday, ani-

Activists say that the Prime Minister has been embarrassed over a brutal and inhumane event?

mal rights activists said the Blairs had intended to leave on a high note by attending the Palio. But Alfredo Ricci, spokesman for the Italian Anti-Vivisection League, said Mr Blair was clearly embarrassed by a vocal campaign by activists who regard the Palio as brutal and inhumane. "We pointed out to him through local officials that 36 horses have been killed in the race since 1975," Signor Ricci said. "I understand that in Britain there is greater concern for animal welfare than there is in Italy."

Signor Ricci said he hoped other British VIPs in Tuscany, including the Duchess of York and Neil Kinnock, the EU Transport Commissioner and former Labour leader, would also stay away.

# City of Giotto cracks down on street life

BY RICHARD OWEN

POLICE this week began a crackdown on tourists who picnic on the steps of medieval and Renaissance buildings in Florence, saying it was time the city of Brunelleschi, Giotto and the Medici was saved from "a tidal wave of sloppiness and stench".

*La Nazione*, the Florence newspaper, said: "Those of us who live here can hardly remember a time when tourists were not sprawled like lava on the steps of the Palazzo Vecchio with their picnics. For years, we have had to perform a slalom between Coke cans and discarded picnic wrappers to get anywhere."

The police action has so far proved surprisingly effective, with officers moving in within seconds on anyone who so much as produces a hard-boiled egg or ham roll from a bag in a public place.

Hot and exhausted tourists drinking soft drinks and

nursing their sore feet in temperatures of nearly 40C (104F) said there were not enough public benches in Florence. "There are open-air cafes, but they are pricey and beyond many budgets," said one backpacker sitting on the Piazza della Signoria, Florence's main square, in front of the 14th-century Palazzo Vecchio.

The new regulation imposes a fine of £8 for illicit picnicking and a £40 fine for anyone leaving behind refuse or otherwise dirtying a public place. But so far, police have contacted themselves with issuing "verbal reprimands". Marco Sestini, chief of municipal police in Florence, said the officers would eventually be replaced by 50 civil volunteers.

Local authorities throughout Tuscany are taking up the "anti-stench campaign", with Siena and Pisa studying the Florence example closely.

UN war... Saddam... arms che...

THE SUNDAY TIMES

ANIMATED DOMINGO

THE SUNDAY TIMES



هذا من العراق

# UN warning to Saddam on arms checks

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

A SENIOR United Nations envoy flew to Baghdad yesterday hoping to resolve the stand-off over weapons inspections. His mission was given added urgency when the UN's top inspector issued a warning that the latest dispute meant his men were no longer able to ensure Iraq was not trying to rebuild its weapons of mass destruction.

President Saddam Hussein, confident that America has no appetite or support for military action, declared last week that Iraq would no longer cooperate with weapons inspectors unless sanctions were lifted immediately. He said video and other surveillance would be allowed to continue, but it has since emerged that inspectors will not be permitted to act on any violations they discover.

"Under these circumstances, inspectors cannot continue to provide the same level of assurance of Iraq's compliance with its obligations not to re-establish its proscribed weapons of mass destruction," Richard Butler, the UN's chief weapons inspector, said in a letter to the Security Council on Wednesday.

There was a similar warning from Muhammad el-Baradei, the Director-General of the Atomic Energy Agency. Iraq's refusal to co-operate was weakening "ongoing

monitoring and inspection", he said.

Hours later Prakash Shah, a UN special envoy, arrived in Baghdad, with a letter from Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, urging the Iraqi leadership to fulfil its disarmament obligations and to reverse last week's decision. Iraqi newspapers repeated there would be no negotiations until sanctions were lifted. But as a special representative of Mr Annan, rather than the United Nations Special Commission (Unscorm) that is overseeing Iraq's disarmament, Mr Shah was guaranteed a polite reception. Despite Baghdad's uncompromising stance, Saddam, who usually sets out maximum demands after provoking a crisis, was keen to see what concessions the UN may offer.

It was felt Baghdad might be prepared to compromise if the UN were to offer a phased lifting of sanctions, rewarding it for co-operation at each step instead of holding out until all weapons files are closed.

Saddam has set tough conditions in return for renewed co-operation with Unscorm, including a call to move the body's headquarters from New York to either Geneva or Vienna. The aim is to dilute American influence over Unscorm, which Iraq claims is in thrall to Washington. The

state-run press yesterday accused Mr Butler, an Australian diplomat, of working closely with the CIA. "Mr Butler has lowered his mask and shown himself to be a servant of the American Administration and executor of a US plot aimed at perpetuating the embargo," said the military newspaper *Al-Qadisiya*.

The attacks came as Iraq weighed the results of a television propaganda assault on Mr Butler intended to win sympathy and support at home and abroad. State-run television has been showing video footage of the tense encounters between Mr Butler and Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, taken when the disarmament talks broke down at the beginning of the month.

One episode showed Mr Butler abruptly rising from his chair to end a meeting on August 3. He agreed the meeting was frosty, but insisted the footage was edited and should never have been broadcast, as the recordings were meant to be kept private.

While Mr Butler has a reputation for straight talking, it was Mr Aziz, dressed in military uniform, who came across as by far the more abrasive, constantly interrupting Mr Butler with brusque demands for an immediate lifting of sanctions.



Engaging memorial: the tomb of Guy Akriah, 17, at Ashkelon cemetery in Israel. His sister Diana said it was a fitting tribute to the teenager, who died in a road accident last month, because he enjoyed talking on his mobile phone so much

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Israeli payout for torture victim

Jerusalem: Israel has paid more than £200,000 in compensation to a Palestinian woman whose son died after being tortured during interrogation (Ross Dunn writes). The decision came after a three-year court battle to win justice for Abd al-Samad Harizat, whose case has highlighted the controversial methods of Shin Bet, the secret service.

Mr Harizat, a member of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, was arrested at his West Bank home in Hebron on April 22, 1995, and transferred to a Jerusalem jail for interrogation. He was taken to hospital in a coma that day and three days later his family heard that he had been pronounced dead. His mother, Fatma, sued for damages and the State did not put up a defence.

### Child labourers protest

Delhi: Fifty children forced to work as bonded labour in Indian carpet and fireworks factories launched a symbolic hunger strike here to protest at their maltreatment. The children, aged seven to 13, came to the capital from several regions for Independence Day tomorrow. India estimates its number of child labourers at 17 million, but welfare groups say the number is at least 44 million. (AFP)

### Peace Corps worker killed

Hoilo, Philippines: Robbers used assault rifles in an attack on vehicles on a road in the central Philippines, killing ten people, including a US Peace Corps volunteer, police said. Six of the victims were forced out of their vehicles, lined up on the side of the road and shot. The American was Robert Beck, 33, of New York, who was helping the provincial government with fisheries and conservation. (AFP)

### Junta halts Suu Kyi van

Rangoon: The Burmese junta halted a van carrying Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition leader, from a highway near Rangoon, as her fourth roadside standoff with military officials inside a month dragged into a second day. Some diplomats said the van was towed to a bridge where she spent six days last month. Others said that troops carried the vehicle to a nearby police compound. (AFP)

### Tests clear rape suspect

A man accused of raping a British tourist at gunpoint in Florida has been cleared after DNA tests revealed he was not the attacker, his lawyer said yesterday. Police arrested Kenneth David Taylor, 39, after the woman picked him out in police photographs. The woman and her partner, from west London, were attacked in their hotel room at the start of a holiday to Disney World last month.

### Suharto security cut back

Jakarta: Indonesia is scaling down security for former President Suharto, the target of student protests before he quit in May. Most of the 540 presidential guards who protect him and his family, including his six children, will be removed next week, an official said. Jakarta's military command will assume security duties on Monday. (AFP)

### Till dress do us part

Athens: A bride-to-be suffered a nervous breakdown the night before her wedding on the Greek island of Crete when she took friends to the couple's new home to see the wedding dress — only to find the groom wearing it and in a passionate embrace with his best man. The wedding was called off, an Athens news agency reported. (Reuters)

## Balloonist flies into fuel problems

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI

STEVE FOSSETT, the American adventurer, yesterday told his mission control headquarters that a fuel consumption problem might force him to abandon his fourth attempt at a non-stop flight around the world in a hot-air balloon.

After completing almost a third of his mission, he gave warnings that he was running out of gas and helium-burning fuel that he needs to steer his *Solo Spirit* balloon into suitable fast winds. The 54-year-old millionaire stockbroker, who communicates with his mission control

centre in St Louis, Missouri, via a satellite fax system — by written messages rather than radio or voice communication — said that he had been forced to use up much of his fuel in order to negotiate a high-pressure wind pattern and avoid slowing down.

"The problem is getting the right trajectory to keep me in fair wind speeds," wrote Mr Fosssett, who launched from the Argentine city of Mendoza, in the foothills of the Andes, last Friday night.

Mr Fosssett's team is now working out a plan to steer the balloon to favourable, fast winds which will require the least

amount of fuel. If he succeeds, the balloonist is expected to land in South America within ten days.

On Wednesday, he became the first man to cross the South Atlantic in a balloon. By yesterday morning, he was flying just off the coast of Madagascar, 20,000ft above the Indian Ocean, and had covered more than 8,500 miles. The 485ft-high balloon, which carries Mr Fosssett in a tiny unpressurised fibre-glass capsule, is due to pass over Australia today or tomorrow. Thousands of people are expected to cheer him on by waving white flags.



THE SUNDAY TIMES

# ANIMATED DOMINGO

Placido Domingo is passionate about opera and scornful of pop music. So why has he made a pop album? Bryan Appleyard travels to Salzburg to tackle the great tenor

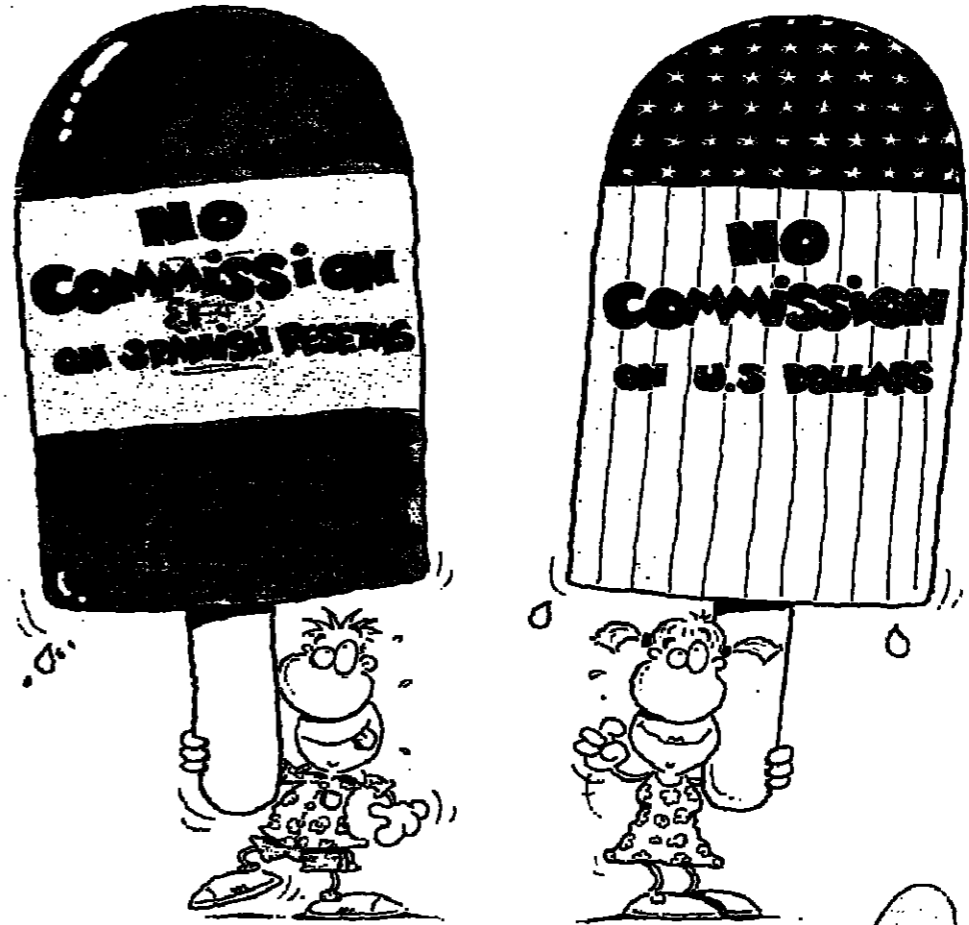
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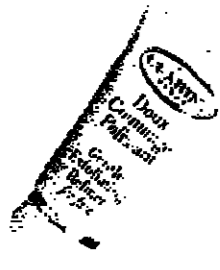
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**DOUX CORINNAGE POLISSANT**  
(gentle exfoliating refiner), £17  
Very delicate with a light scent, extremely refreshing to use. Left skin feeling significantly improved with no irritation, unlike some exfoliators, which leave the skin feeling blotchy. One product I will definitely convert to. *Clarins*, available from selected department stores (0171-629 2979) 10/10



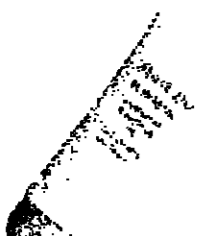
**FOAMING GEL SCRUB**, £5.25  
Perfect for those with oily or combination skins who want a rougher scrub rather than gentle exfoliation. The scrub kernels are bigger and the gel has a thick glue-like consistency which sloughs dead skin cells away and leaves the face smooth. *The Body Shop* (01903 731500) 9/10



**SWEEP AWAY**, £14.50  
Slightly medicinal smell but a texture like soft, mushy sand, which makes it delightful to use. Not at all scratchy, and left skin feeling fresh, soft and revitalised. *Origins* (0800-731 4039) 8/10



**GENTLE BUFFING CREAM**, £22  
This fragrant exfoliant containing grapeseed is gentle but very thorough at removing dead cells. It leaves you looking smooth, refreshed and polished. *Caudalie* (0171-394 9733) 9/10



**PURENESS EXFOLIATING TREATMENT GEL**, £15.50  
Impressively understated, minimally perfumed and only slightly foaming. The cool blue exfoliator is gentle yet cleansing and left my skin feeling smooth, refreshed and healthy-looking. *Shiseido*, available at selected department stores nationwide 10/10



**GENTLE EXFOLIATOR**, £13.50  
Smooth, creamy and easy to apply. A little goes a long way. It left my face feeling very clean and my skin firm but not tight. *Clinique*, available at selected department stores (0171-409 6951) 7/10

COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

*Objects of desire*

It may look minimalist and uninviting with its painted metal frame and monochrome woven fabric, but this Corbusier-style chaise longue is unbelievably comfortable; your body simply moulds into the curves of the chair. The angle at which you lie is extremely relaxing, perfect for reclining and reading a book. £335 from *Graham & Green*, 10 Elgin Crescent, W11 (0171-727 4594) DB



The new Emporio Armani fragrance is utterly desirable. The packaging is compact and made from contrasting soft rubber and silky-smooth metal. These cylindrical objects are compact and sculptured to fit together perfectly, curving outwards for him and inwards for her. They both share hints of cedar and musk but the male version is woodier while the female version is delicate and oriental. Unlike most perfumes the scent is not

powerful when first applied but gradually increases in intensity. To highlight the launch, customers are invited to have a complimentary cappuccino and relax at *Fraser's* Glasgow, *Kendalls* in Manchester, *Rackhams* in Birmingham and *Brown Thomas* in Dublin. Prices start at £25. Available from tomorrow at Emporio Armani, department stores and leading chemists nationwide. DB

**Whiter shades of pale**

Returning from holiday on the Bay of the Somme (yes, very nice, thank you. According to a copy of *French Vogue*, the Somme is the place to go for your holidays this year — and so it is, if you don't mind spending the whole time swathed in damp fishermen's knits and waist-length waders, and don't fear the attacks of rheumatism, phthisis galopante and trench foot that such a wardrobe encourages... I was startled to find Britain in the middle of a late-blooming heatwave. How lovely. The very moment to rush out and purchase something white and floaty to set off one's pale-gold suntan. So it's off to the shops, which naturally, since it is 90 degrees in the shade, are full of hairy tweed skirts and boiled-wool jerkins.

ample, it is still possible to construct a notably chic all-white wardrobe for a satisfyingly small sum. Cool, wide-leg trousers in frosty-white crinkle viscose are £30, a matching tunic is £24, or a shirt £35 — perfect for holidays because they are washable and don't require ironing. For evening, you could swap the shirt for a heavyweight viscose jersey tunic embroidered with flowers in crystal bugle beads and sequins, £15 (reduced from £21). Cotton mix T-shirts with a devoré rose pattern are £12 (£18).



What's a girl to do? You may have thought that you had finished your sales shopping, but unless you fancy spending the dog days buttoned to the chin in your new-season's woolens, it's back again to see what can be unearthed from the expiring moments of the summer reductions. It is not quite hopeless. Some sensible chains, such as *Warehouse* and *Jane Norman*, have mid-season ranges, or their summer clothes still in stock. And in the sales, though stock holdings are unpredictable, there are still bargains to be found. At *Marks & Spencer*, for example, it is still possible to

Warehouse has a good pair of white hooded tops — in short-sleeved polyester for £28, or long-sleeved cotton knit, £40. Pretty and comfortable wide-legged silk pants are £45 and (stretching the definition of white a little), there is a short skirt, £28, and spaghetti-strapped dress, £38, in a ravishing silver lamé Jacquard. At *Jane Norman*, a bias-cut, knee-length skirt in white linen (you need to be thin to wear it) is only £29.99, teeny cotton and Lycra shorts with "corn-bar" pockets are £24.99, and a pretty white viscose dress with a gathered bodice, sprigged with blue and green embroidered flowers, is £39.99.

At *Liberty*, *Yohji Yamamoto* fanciers can find cream silk-satin harem pants reduced to £185 (£379) and a huge cream silk sweater, banded in navy at wrist and hem, for £205 (£419). French and Teague viscose pants with an embossed leaf pattern are £161 (£215), and *Liberty's* own-label voluminous white-on-white organza shirt is £87 (£175).

At *Ferwick*, *Jasper Conran's* loose silk trousers are £89 (£179), a matching big shirt is £159 (£345), and lurking shyly behind a sign at *Selfridges* that proclaims "The New Season has arrived", a little white edge-to-edge viscose cardigan by *Jean Muir*, fastened with a single crystal button, is reduced from £473 to £235 — not cheap, but so perfectly classic that you could buy it when you were 18 and still look tremendous in it at 80.

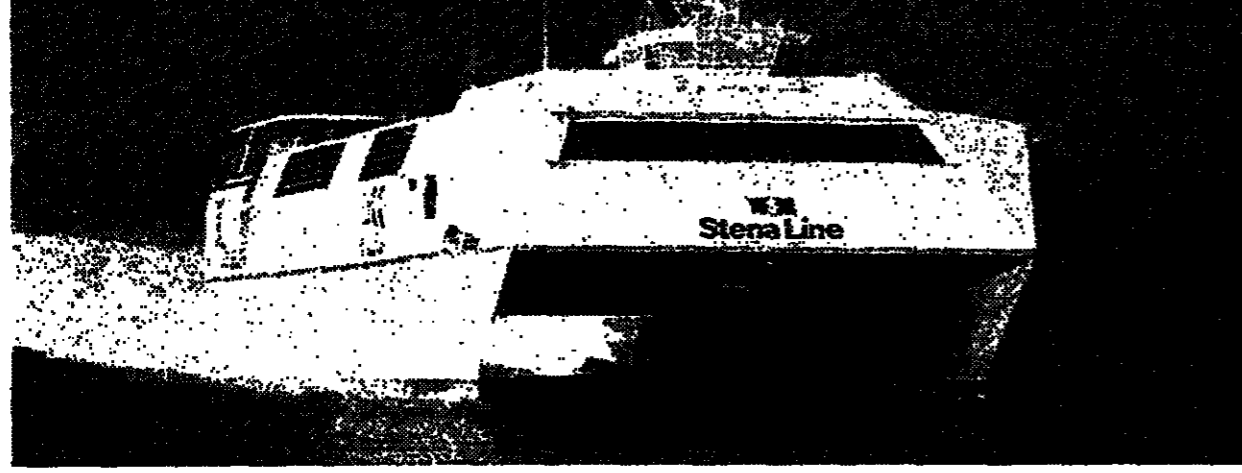
But perhaps the best place to join the white company is at *Jaeger*. I have been popping in and out of its Regent Street branch all summer without finding anything that I felt I had to have, but the sale seems to contain some real treasures. Cream silk and linen mix side-fastening trousers are £69 (£120), and a matching unlined jacket with four mother-of-pearl buttons is £119 (£280). A less formal trouser-suit, with fluid clothed-cream silk jersey trousers and a tunic with military-style pockets is £69 (£130) for the trousers, and £49 (£100) for the jacket. A cream silk side-slit tunic is £59 (£130), and a Nehru-collared linen tunic with a row of mother-of-pearl buttons is £59 (£69). A classic knee-length linen skirt is £49 (£90), an ankle-length skirt in coarse-weave white linen £79 (£150) — and if you are beginning to feel the need for some variation in the uninterrupted vistas of white, off-white and cream, a desirable belt in a serpentine gold metal mesh is just £15.



Back to summer: but do the sales have the white requirements for your wardrobe?

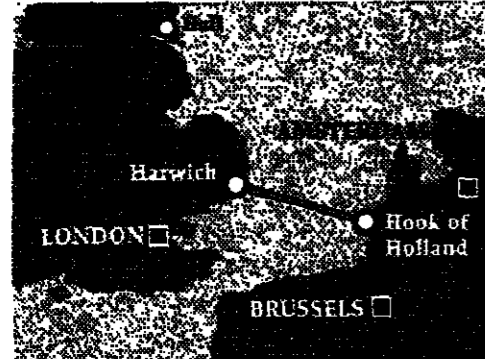
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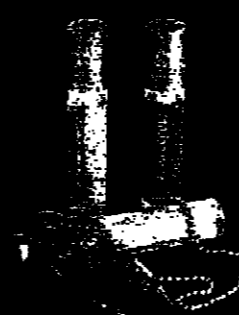
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**HOT TIP**



Forget orange-scented traffic light strips or even those dangling Magic Trees which smell of pine. The hip beauty specialist *Aveda* has finally produced a car freshener kit to be proud of. It comes in the shape of a leaf with a bathing chain attached (for dangling purposes) and three different scented sprays. Each scent is unique to *Aveda*, and will leave your car smelling heavenly. *Aveda Airmobile Kit* is available only from the *Aveda Lifestyle Store*, 28-29 Marylebone High Street, W1 (0171-224 3157) DB

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هكذا من زلازل

# The final chapter for the great unread



**MAN ON TOP**  
JOE JOSEPH

It's surprising just how many people have been put off reading books by Sir Isaac Newton's third law of averages, which states that "there is a high probability that every fifth book you read will have been written by Barbara Cartland" which is an astonishingly precise calculation considering that when Newton formulated this law way back in 1723, Barbara Cartland hadn't even completed more than 798 novels, approximately equivalent to only 6 per cent of her current output.

Audacious to motivate us all into reading again, bookshops have decided to make it impossible to ignore literature. The clever ruse they have devised is to turn the whole of Central London into a very large bookshop. Leading the campaign is Borders, an American bookchain which has opened a su-

perstore in London, stocking 150,000 book titles. I went in on its opening day a fortnight ago and only yesterday found my way out again: I felt like those Japanese soldiers who emerge from the jungle in Borneo convinced that the Second World War is still in full swing — only for me the fear was that I was the only person in the world who hadn't yet heard the DNA test results on Monica Lewinsky's cocktail dress. Waterstone's is so jealous of Borders that it's going to build its own superstore near Oxford Circus, stocking more than 165,000 titles.

The owners of all these new warehouses want you to feel at home. They hope you'll sit around reading their books on specially provided sofas, drinking coffee and beer in the in-store bars. They want you to feel as comfortable as you would in your own home. But

then they should prepare for the day when you walk into their shop and you scream: "All these books everywhere are driving me mad! I don't even know what half of them are. I'm putting them all in boxes and taking them to the Oxford shop right now!" Then see if the store owners still feel so clever.

The other drawback with this feet-at-home concept is that you rarely read books sitting on the sofa. If these book-sellers want to make you feel at ease, they should be providing simulated Tube train carriages, benches with fat pillows to lean against, miniature Mediterranean beaches and loos with telephones that will ring sporadically, but which will be just too far to reach from a sitting position. And because most of the books you find yourself engrossed in at home are

not the ones you pick off your bookshelf but the ones you find at the back of the cupboard while trying to locate your tennis shorts, smart bookstores should hide top new titles in unlikely nooks and crannies so that customers can just stumble across them unexpectedly.

But who actually needs 150,000 different titles? If you go into your local bookshop, which stocks 20,000 titles, and can't find a single book you'd like to read, you're not looking for a book: you're looking for an argument. And we'll soon realise that we can read books on our own loo without a journey to Oxford Street.

That's when the owners of these superstores will start enrolling their staff on the same courses from which insurance salesmen learn their hard-sell techniques and then they'll make them cold-call you at home to persuade you

to buy one of their four million unsold books.

**SALESMAN:** I know this is not something a young chap like you imagines he'll ever need to think about, but have you given any thought to how your dependants might feel if you were to drop dead one day without having made any provision to leave them a selection of hardback literature?

**YOU:** I have no dependants who rely on me for their well-being apart from a Thai man who comes and collects my shirts and returns them 48 hours later, carefully ironed and folded in a way that disguises the latest scorch marks left by his temperamental iron.

**SALESMAN:** Do you realise that if you're currently under 40, for just 23p a day you could amass a rewarding book collection to pass on to your future children at the age of 65, instead of just a col-

lection of pizzeria flyers? Or do you want them to grow up illiterate, unable to find a job, unaware that there's always a way to pick yourself up by your bootstraps and turn the tables on the world because they have no concept of the "final chapter, table-turning de-nouement" as a result of the lack of literature left to them by you?

**YOU:** When you put it that way, maybe I should take a dozen Graham Greenes, four Hemingways and a Dickens or two to broaden the portfolio.

**SALESMAN:** Believe me, you won't regret it. Hey, did I mention that our fitted-bookshelf operatives are in your area and that, at no obligation, they could drop by to see if you qualify for a free fitted bookshelf? Hello? Should I take that as a 'no'? What if I throw in those DNA test results you missed on Monica Lewinsky's dress?

## 'Signing my name cost me years of my life'

Lloyd's name Sally Noel is staging a very public protest. Interview by Lucy Hawking

Under the muggy August sky, waves of tourists flow past the Houses of Parliament, some stopping to stare at a blonde woman draped in chains outside St Stephen's. The main attraction is the House of Commons and Lords. "Never imagined that life would bring me to this," sighs Sally Noel, Lloyd's name and chain-wearer, as she readjusts her black wraparound shades. "This really isn't what I expected."

Certainly, Noel would look more at home in the pages of *Hellot* than protesting on the pavements of London. "Used to be very happy playing tennis and water-skiing and hunting and being the mother of four children and Mrs Domestic Hausfrau," she says.

Yet a future of relentless debt at Lloyd's of London has turned Noel, a dead ringer for Patsy from *Absolutely Fabulous*, into an unlikely but fervent activist.

From ambushing Michael Heseltine to smuggling anti-Tory banners into Conservative Party conferences, Noel has dispensed with her former shyness. "Before, I wouldn't have said boo to a goose," she declares. Today she is devoted to making as much noise as possible in protest against what she perceives as large-scale corporate fraud. "At the end of the day I'll lie down and die in a very public place, and it will be for a good cause," she says dramatically.

Parliamentary protest has been triggered by a judgment handed down last week against a small band of Lloyd's names. Most names, a term meaning private investors who put up their own money as a guarantee in the insurance market, settled with Lloyd's a few years ago, leaving them with, at the least, a subsistence income.

Sitting beside Noel is Kit Hood, one of these hardship names. Previously a rich farmer in Oxfordshire, he now lives on a meagre income in a one-up, one-down whose deeds are held by Lloyd's. Hood, 63, has developed gout, lost his wife and his fortune. When his debts topped £1 million he settled with Lloyd's, seeing no other way out.

He originally joined Lloyd's in the early 1960s, when it seemed a rock-solid investment. His heavy losses in the early 1990s wiped him out. "I used to go on holiday twice a

year, I lived quite a glamorous life," he says, leaning against one of Noel's anti-Lloyd's posters for support. "I've gone from being a wealthy guy to being not a wealthy guy. It's quite simple really."

Noel's bill from Lloyd's is £300,000, currently unpaid. She was tempted to accept a very preferable settlement offered by Lloyd's that would have greatly reduced her debt. But a clause in the document would have bound her to silence on the Lloyd's matter forever. At the last minute she turned down the offer and joined the little band of refusniks.

These rebel names have steadfastly avoided settlement in order to bring a fraud claim to court. They allege that Lloyd's knew of the huge losses it was facing and deliberately recruited new names to cover them. They say that the high-risk elements were shovelled into the newer syndicates, no longer peopled by the stereotypical patrician investor but by middle-class professionals and overseas punters, seduced by the lure of all that was Lloyd's.

All these allegations are denied by Lloyd's, which points to its continued success in the courts against these names. "It has never been proven at face or at law that Lloyd's was in any position to predict losses from asbestos," says a spokesman. "We are not going to dispossess people who cannot pay or who are in no position to pay. It is a commercial debt-collecting operation, and that is all."

And now that the courts have once more found in Lloyd's favour, the rebel names are running out of ways to hold off this "commercial debt-collecting".

They are claiming furniture, silver, antiques, things that have been in families for years and years," says Noel. "It's not just large estates, it's also little old widows living on Dartmoor who are in fear of what they will do to them next."

While the financial cost for names has been crippling, and the loss of artefacts upsetting, the cost in human terms has been devastating, with 34 suicides to date and innumerable family break-ups.

In some Lloyd's-related divorce cases wives have left their name husbands because



Parliamentary protest: "At the end of day, I'll lie down and die in a very public place and it will be for a good cause," says Lloyd's name and activist Sally Noel

of their bankruptcy. "It has caused huge friction within our family," Noel says. Her four grown-up children have been distressed and confused by the situation. "They've lost a mother — I've become a fanatic. They're desperately upset but don't know what to do to help me."

With the wisdom of hindsight, Noel says she was never keen on joining Lloyd's. She was recruited after a chance meeting on the ski slopes. "I felt unhappy from the word go," she says. "I don't like gambling. I have never put more than £1 on a horse in my life so it seems ironic that I got involved in the biggest gamble of all time."

But, having been persuaded that she was making a blue-chip investment and assured that she would not be put into any high-risk syndicates, she put her money in. And while "unlimited liability" should have flashed a warning, she says that she was told that it was a mere formality, and that there was no chance of the Noel establishment being reduced to its last shuff link. "We were gullible," she now admits.

Noel resigned from Lloyd's in 1985 — her husband had lost his job and she wanted her capital back. But she found that things were becoming complicated. In normal circumstances a name is locked in for three further years after resigning. However, a year of exceptional losses may be declared an open year, in which case the books never close and the names are tied in for ever.

In Noel's case, she says that she was brought in to underwrite high-risk ventures that Lloyd's already knew would generate huge losses. Lloyd's says there is no way it could have foreseen the terrible impact these cases would have, but the rebel names believe it knew about the potential damage and kept the information from new names.

"I will never trust anyone again. I will never sign anything again. Signing those two

words, Sally Noel, cost me years of my life," she says.

Last week's judgment has threatened to put names other than Noel on the street. In Somerset, Christopher Thomas Everard, a former sheriff of the county and a hill farmer, has had the bailiffs at his home. Except that it has not been his since he made it over to his wife and son in 1977 for inheritance reasons. Lloyd's, says Thomas Everard, knew perfectly well it no longer belonged to him. "The sheriff's officer was instructed by Lloyd's to seize the farm," he says wearily.

Thomas Everard joined Lloyd's in 1973 on the advice of friends who were Lloyd's agents. They told him that one bad year would always be paid off by the next. Until the 1990s, when "things went pear-shaped", this seemed roughly true. Having paid £250,000 to Lloyd's, he is left with very little. He earns a small salary paid to him by his son, who also paid off his father's recent bankruptcy writ for £750.

"I've made a lot of fine friends, and have been amazed at their fortitude," he says. "Some people have committed suicide, some have taken to drink. But that's like saying that because you were mugged you ought to go home, draw the curtains and drink whisky."

Despite their fortitude, it is not clear just what the future holds for these names. An inquiry recently opened in the US may shed light on the recruitment of American names but there are no plans to hold an inquiry, refused by the previous Government, in Britain. Noel, however, intends to keep to her post, still lingering on the parliamentary pavement when MPs return from their summer holidays, still protesting.

"It's the last thing I wanted to do. All I ever wanted was a peaceful life," she says, looking very determined indeed. As another tall blonde once said: "The thing is, she won't go quietly."

**'My four children have lost a mother; now I am a fanatic'**

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Ed Needham, FHM's Editor, on the secret of his success. Pages 35-38

Results countdown: what a difference an A makes — or does it? Page 40

# The politics of a German Golgotha

Daniel Johnson on Kohl's Holocaust Memorial in Berlin

The Holocaust made few headlines while it was happening, but now it is rarely out of them. From disputes between Volkswagen or Daimler-Benz and former slave labourers to Swiss and Austrian banks or the argument over crosses at Auschwitz the Holocaust is as much a part of the present as of the past.

Indeed, it is precisely in countries which denied this truth, which did their best to suppress or ameliorate the memory of the Shoah that it has returned with a vengeance. In their different ways, Switzerland, Austria and Poland all feigned innocence; East Germany, too, pretended that it was a walled garden of good, socialist Germans, while the guilty Nazis were all in the West. Only the Federal Republic attempted, from the first, to accept collective responsibility for the Nazi crimes, and to institutionalise their remembrance. Even the West Germans, however, have never reached a consensus about the appropriate manner of exorcising the demon of Judicia.

And so it is that the Holocaust has never ceased to be a major issue in German politics. The Cold War distorted and polarised attitudes to the past, most vividly in the Bitburg affair of 1985. The German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, then invited President Reagan to commemorate not just the victims of the Nazis, but also the veterans of the Wehrmacht and even, as it turned out, the Waffen SS, at the Bitburg cemetery. Protests on both sides of the Atlantic, and not only by Jews, could not prevent this bizarre ceremony, which amounted to an oath of transatlantic *Nibelungen* brotherhood of former foes, against the insidious threat posed by neutralism to Nato solidarity. According to George Shultz, then US Secretary of State, Kohl blackmailed Reagan by threatening that his coalition would fall if the President did not come, and German-American relations would be permanently damaged.

In the event, real damage was inflicted on German-Jewish relations. Bitburg confirmed the widely held impression that the guardians of Germany's conscience were to be found on the Left, and those who wanted to "draw a line under the past" on the Right. The contrast between the two images — of the Social Democrat Chancellor Willy Brandt falling on his knees in the Warsaw Ghetto, and the Christian Democrat Helmut Kohl honouring Hitler's fallen warriors — could not have expressed this moral distinction more graphically. It certainly rankled with many German conservatives, who resented their exculpation or apologetic reputation and pointed out that the Kohl Government's record on compensation and commemoration was in many ways better than that of its predecessors.

Kohl has an obsession with history. His own place in it will be hopes, not only that of the man who unified first Germany and then Europe, but also of the man who reconciled the Germans to their

nightmarish past and so enabled them to love their country again. To restore German patriotism, he came to realise, the Left's monopoly on the memory of genocide had to be broken and the lingering, albeit latent, anti-Semitism of the Right had to be expunged. Kohl has largely succeeded in both aims, but he has failed to elevate the Holocaust above the political arena. His German Historical Museum in Berlin, founded in the late 1980s, was denounced on the Left as a nationalist plot to whitewash the past. Now an even more ambitious Kohl project — the Holocaust Memorial — looks as though it may run into the sandy Berlin soil if the Chancellor loses next month's general election.

The memorial was intended to set the seal on the historical consciousness of the "Berlin Republic". On the site of the garden of the Reich Chancellery, built by Albert Speer to be Hitler's showpiece, above the Nazi leaders' bunkers and beside the Berlin Wall, near the Brandenburg Gate and the rebuilt Potsdamer Platz, at the heart of the old capital and the new, there is a 25,000 square metre open space. After two competitions and a decade of debate, one plan has emerged on top. Some 2,700 massive stone steles, or slabs, would be erected to an American design by Peter Eisenman and Richard Serra. It advocates claim the conception defies reproduction and must be experienced first-hand. The visitor wanders through a forest of tombstones at the nerve-centre of the Third Reich. It could be Germany's Golgotha.

Even though Kohl has thrown his not inconsiderable weight behind it, the Eisenman-Serra memorial has failed to capture the public imagination, and is opposed by the Mayor of Berlin, a fellow Christian Democrat, who may carry with him a majority of the city's senate when it votes next week. Until the past few weeks, however, it was not a party political issue. Then Kohl's Social Democratic challenger, Gerhard Schröder (the "German Blair") chose an American-German publishing executive, Michael Naumann, to be his Shadow Culture Minister. Naumann poured scorn on the Holocaust Memorial, which he thought worthy of Speer; when asked, Schröder said his views were "very close" to Naumann's, and that he thought the concentration camps themselves were the best memorials. Not many Germans go to the "KZs" except on school trips. Such cynicism is breathtaking, but Schröder has an election to win. He has calculated that many Germans, especially in the East, resent "Jewish demands". So, for the first time since 1945, the parties of the Right are campaigning to keep alive the memory of the Final Solution, while the Social Democrats are the party of amnesia. It is a nice irony that Schröder wants the old Schloss of the Hohenzollerns, demolished by the Communists, rebuilt in all its splendour. In Kaiser's Germany the Holocaust was out of sight. Would the victims be out of German minds?



# Every drop to drink

### If desalination were cheaper, we could drink 99% of the world's water

Many miles north of Kerena in Eritrea, in a land of great hills and arid valleys, a hot place, nomads scratch what living they can from the unyielding thin scrub. I visited one of their encampments last Christmas. The people were in a pitiful state. Dogged by malaria and drought, their children malnourished and their cattle skin and bones, this diminished group of families had gathered their tented stick huts around a dried-up river upon whose irregular flood all life in the valley depended. Otherwise, one oozing spring many miles up a steep valley was all they had.

We drank tea under a verminous shelter made from acacia branches strung over with bits of blanket and cardboard. (I asked my hosts) this river sometimes does flow, is it not possible that beneath the riverbed there is moisture all year? Could the Government not sink a borehole? "Yes," said our interpreter, "they have drilled and found water. But it is salty. They can drink it but it makes them sick. It spoils the soil."

Having an afternoon to spare later by the Red Sea, I whiled away the hours with notebook and pencil designing a do-it-yourself, Third World desalination kit that would use old car radiators, oil drums and hosepipe. The heat of the sun would boil salt water whose steam could then be distilled into fresh water. On my return to England, Internet-browsing showed I had come late to the idea: the challenge of replicating industrial what nature does with sun, clouds and rain has absorbed generations of those who work in dry countries. Hundreds of designs exist. Huge plants are in use on Arabian coasts, using oil-fired boilers, solar power or both; but the process of desalination through distillation remains expensive. It is also troublesome. Boilers and pipework keep caking with salt.

This is more than a pity: it is infuriating. Some 99.2 per cent of the world's unfrozen water is salty. Yet only a narrow and specialised range of animals, plants and fish can live in salt water. The rest of us need some of that precious 0.8 per cent, or we die. Wars are fought over it, tribes follow it, murders are committed because of it, and when it dries or moves, civilisations founder. In temperate Britain we are unusually ill-placed to understand emotionally

(though we may know intellectually) the importance of water to a dauntingly dry world in which we occupy one small, damp corner.

Yet what if mankind could desalinate sea water, everywhere, and every drop to drink! At a stroke that 99 per cent becomes a near-universal resource. Within a few generations every dry coastline on the planet, hundreds of thousands of miles of it, and all its hinterland, becomes habitable, arable. Every brackish well becomes a life-saver. And the resource is infinitely renewable, for by taking salt from the sea in one place and dumping it back in another, we yield fresh water which ultimately trickles or falls as rain into the sea. Apart (I believe) from our failure to invent an affordable, light-weight and powerful electric battery, no failure of modern technology more obviously holds back the human race than our inability cheaply and copiously to desalinate water.

Some weeks ago I visited Anglian Water's experimental mobile desalinator, parked on a beach at Felixstowe. At a series of trial sites the company has been piloting a system to produce potable water from the North Sea. On a raw, windy day, with John Murrer (Anglian's engineer in charge), I looked out across a scrubby beach at some of England's most evil seawater. Felixstowe docks were opposite: agitated, greeny-brown water made the murkier by waste from ships' bilges. There was a sewage outlet a mile away. "We reckon," Mr Murrer told me, "that if we can get it out of almost any sea."

As it happened, I was being given a world exclusive on this project. Anglian seemed intrigued by my interest in what looked like no more than a seaside *Portakabin*. But the future will prove it well-founded. This desalination plant was based not on the distillation process (heating water and condensing steam) but on what is called "reverse osmosis". The technology may overtake distillation as an af-

fordable means of removing salt from water, in quantity.

The idea is simple: the microscopic equivalent of clearing a liquid by straining it through a sheet. Sodium and chloride ions are blocked by a semipermeable membrane that allows fresh water to pass through. It is *The Economist's* science editor puts it) a matter of "squeezing water from the sea": a physical, not a chemical process. Chemicals are required only to clean the plant. No heat is needed and the energy input (to drive pumps) is small enough for it to be supplied by a portable generator, or solar-electric or wind power.

The process has been known for decades but a new impetus for its application is being provided by the development of better membranes: porous latex sheet (for strength and durability) is bonded with a semipermeable film (to block the salt). Results so far suggest a huge improvement.

The quantity of throughput is higher, the pressures lower, and the material is harder-wearing. We inspected the three "pressure tubes" in which the reverse-osmosis membranes were rolled into what looked like double-sided Swiss-rolls, with water being forced through them.

But that is the second half of the process. First you need absolutely clean, filtered salt water: for if you clog your osmotic membrane with mud, sand, weed and microscopic organisms, it rapidly degenerates. As so often in the development of usable technology, it is this rather *humdrum* part which is hard to get right outside the laboratory. You need plant you can bump on and off a lorry.

How best to filter? At Felixstowe the pilot trial was carried out first using water from a well by the beach. The sand and shingle had acted as a natural filter, doing half the required cleaning job. But not every site offers this, so the second stage of the pilot used water taken straight out of the sea — and pretty foul it was. The khaki-coloured soup was filtered by a

"hollow-fibre ultrafiltration" machine (a self-cleaning plant, about the size of a small car). This is off-the-shelf technology that is widely used across the world for river water.

If you harness these two technologies — the pre-filtration and the reverse osmosis for salt removal — you end up with drinking water so pure that it tasted flat. I tried it. I moved to London water, I hankered for chemicals. The pilot scheme, Mr Murrer told me, had been wholly successful. It is now complete. By the end, a plant which should in time be portable on the back of a single lorry was producing 8,000 gallons of water a day. This still costs a good deal more than rainwater in a country well-served with rivers and reservoirs; in Britain these plants are likely to be useful only in emergencies, or for sites to which there is no infrastructure, for example seaside holiday camps, caravan parks or construction sites.

But abroad the potential application is immense. With economies of scale, costs could come right down. In the United States there are fixed plants turning out more than ten million gallons a day.

The contribution made by Anglian consists not in any great new invention, any flash-in-the-pan genius, but in innovation of a sort John Harrison, our 18th-century inventor of the marine chronometer (and, ultimately, the clockwork wristwatch), would recognise: patient, intelligent, trial-and-error slog. Sometimes we expect abracadabra answers to problems for which the theoretical solutions are available: what is needed is a great deal of enlightened fiddling around. Less of the wand and more of the spinner, detailed lists of product specifications and costings, the metering units and computer printouts.

Whoever could make two ears of corn or two blades of grass to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before would deserve better of mankind and do more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together," says Jonathan Swift. It was good, earlier this summer, to get away from Westminster and on to Felixstowe beach. Mr Murrer may visit Eritrea on fact-finding missions. The mission of Mr Murrer and his team, however, is more likely to be remembered by nomads.

Matthew Parris

## Philip Howard

■ The whole of maths is greater than the sum

After three centuries of pencil-chewing calculation, Kepler's Orange Stacking Problem was crushed this week. Professor Thomas Hales of Michigan University posted his solution to the most notorious problem in mathematics on the Internet. It contains 250 pages of logic, and relies on computer programs that occupy more than three gigabytes of storage space.

Those of us who are weak at higher sums (99.9 recurring per cent of the human race) can only wonder at the fuss. The problem seems so simple. At the beginning of the 17th century Sir Walter Raleigh asked Thomas Harriot, the English mathematician, to study the stacking of cannon balls. Harriot wrote to Johannes Kepler, the German astronomer, who was deemed to be good at balls since he discovered the three planetary laws. In 1611 Kepler suggested that face-centred cubic packing was the most efficient way to pack the most spheres into the smallest space.

For bad boys at the back of the class, Kepler's system arranges the bottom layer in rows that are alternately staggered by half a cannon ball. The next layer is built by placing balls in the depressions left in the first layer. And so, onwards and upwards. But Kepler could not prove that there was not a more efficient way.

Mathematicians have been stumped by this problem ever since. But that is the way that greenrogers without O levels for GCSEs in maths have been stacking oranges in boxes for ever longer. So what conclusion do we draw from this, O Level? The Platonic solution is that all creatures are born with an archetypal knowledge of the mathematics of the Universe. So bees build their honeycombs more or less according to Kepler's packing system, and cows introduced to a new milking parlour plod their way to the stalls in the same sequence that they were accustomed to in their old parlour.

The Platonic solution is that serious mathematicians are nerds solving ridiculous non-problems. Fermat's Last Theorem may be a pretty puzzle, but its only intelligible product has been Stoppard's brilliant play, *Arcadia*. Higher mathematicians are strange, cantankerous internationalist creatures. André Weil, who died last week, spent much of his life arguing with a mathematician who died 23 centuries earlier, Diophantus of Alexandria.

Archimedes was a mathematician for practical as well as wacky mathematical seasons. He is best known for running naked down the street shouting "Eureka!" after discovering the Archimedes Principle while playing with a toy duck in his bath. But he also invented the "Screw" for raising water. He built a planetarium and he designed the catapults and grenades which held off the first Roman siege of Syracuse.

But his first love was for useless problems. He calculated the number of grains of sand needed to fill the Universe. To cope with the vast numbers involved, he came up with the original concept of a myriad myriad, ie, 10,000 x 10,000, or 10,000,000. Given that he knew only a Universe visible to the naked eye, his answer of 10,000<sup>8</sup> was respectable. Archimedes's *problema bovinum* posits Apollo having a herd of cattle, bulls and cows together, some brown, some white, some spotted, in various proportions. The answer comes to 79 billion cattle, which is far in excess of the number that could stand in Sicily, including those perching in the boiling crater of Etna.

Higher maths is useless. That is its glory. You cannot justify it by its spin-offs, in the way that idiots justify the space programme because it produced the non-stick saucepan. Fewer students study maths at university today, going for other options such as politics or media studies. But maths is so wonderful because it is knowledge for its own inch. A student at the Academy studying abstract maths asked Plato: "What practical end do these theorems serve? What is to be gained from them?" Plato turned to his slave and said: "Give this young man an obol (a penny) that he may feel he has gained something from my teachings. And then expel him."

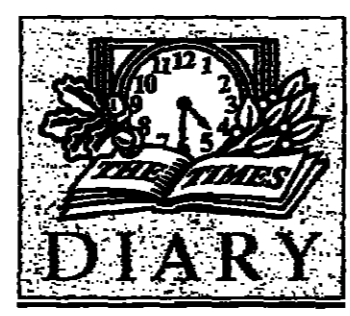
Maths is poetry. It is above and beyond profit and loss. Even those of us who struggle with our DIY Inland Revenue forms can recognise its icy beauty. QED.

# Turkey loot?

The former wife of Asil Nadir, the disgraced tycoon, is planning to seek refuge in Britain from the Turkish police. Ayesha (pictured left), whose northern husband (right) hides from British justice in Turkish-controlled northern Cyprus, is on the run from her homeland for allegedly smuggling an antique Koran and a marble phallus. The former society hostess, who is in France, believes Britain is less likely to hand her over to the Ankara authorities than other European countries. Ayesha's arrival in Britain will be only the latest chapter in a colourful life. In the Eighties, when Polly Peck, her husband's company was rapidly emerging as a £2 billion business, she was a prominent figure in the Belgravia party circuit, treating Princesses Margaret and Michael of Kent to summer cruises in the Aegean.



Ayesha also ran an antiques export business with Oliver Hoare, the close friend of Diana, Princess of Wales. But in 1990 the Nadirs divorced, although Ayesha was able to negotiate a £20 million settlement. Then Polly Peck went belly-up and Asil was charged with fraud and theft. In 1993 he skipped the country, finding a safe haven in Cyprus. Ayesha was quoted recently stating that she was almost broken and that her "life has ceased to be an interesting one". But she was spotted at the weekend on a private yacht moored off St Tropez, on which she has spent much of the



which will reveal their faces to audiences in more than 20 countries.

## Expenses paid

WITH the David Shayler affair hotting up, *Newsnight* must be thanking its lucky stars to have Sian Kevill in the studio. The programme's editor has been telling her BBC colleagues that she was recruited by MI6. Kevill, who is a dead-ringer for Dame Stella Rimington, only younger-looking, agreed to join the service after leaving university, but first she wanted to do a spot of travelling.

She told the spooks and they agreed to fund her backpacking. During her year out, however, Kevill says she changed her mind about her future career and decided to sign up with the BBC. When she nervously informed her MI6

controllers, they told her not to worry about her cash advance and wished her well. One for Jeremy Paxman to investigate.

● **BALLYCASTLE** has at least one thing going for it, even though it is in the boonies. The Northern Ireland town, where Marconi transmitted the first commercial radio signal a century ago, is a blackspot for cellular users.

## Pitch invasion

AS a long-suffering Fulham FC fan of 40 years, Stephen Pound, you might have thought, would have had first call on a couple of



smart new VIP boxes at Mohamed Al Fayed's club. But it is not to be. The Labour MP for Ealing North will have to settle for his regular spot on the terraces at tonight's big match against Manchester City. For the seats in the boxes are expected to be filled by a group of noisy, if celebrated, away fans.

"The club is allowing Liam and Noel Gallagher to use the boxes," complains Pound, who will be standing alongside Martin Linton, his fellow Labour MP and Fulham fan. "I shall stand right in front of them with the other fans. However, I shall be erecting a *cordón sanitaire* within voting range."

● **IS THE bottom** falling out of the market for James Bond suits? A tux worn by Sean Connery in *Diamonds are Forever* sold for £9,775, while an outfit sported by Roger Moore is expected to raise no more than £6,500 at auction. A Timothy Dalton number has been priced at a miserable £5,000.

## Stripped bare

JERRY HALL might have left Bryn-a-Ferry for Mick Jagger but she still prefers her former boyfriend's croonings. In an interview to be broadcast later this month, the model lists four Ferry records and only three Jagger cuts in her favour.



the ten singles. Hall was engaged to the smooth *Roxy Music* crooner (pictured) in the Seventies, until Jagger saved her from becoming Jerry Ferry. Bryan was most displeased, filling his next album, *The Bride Stripped Bare*, with bitter post-mortems on her departure. In 1988 in *Kiss and Tell*, he sang about her: "One public face in a finisiose. Flash photography, it's the only life you see." Among the Ferry songs picked by Hall were *The Price of Love* and *Jealous Guy*.

EDWARD WELSH

RUSSIAN WORK

MINERAL

OLD DOGS NEW

هكذا من زليج



### RUSSIAN WOBBLER

The tightrope is fraying, but it has not yet snapped

The Russian barometer rose encouragingly in the immediate aftermath of the IMF's \$22.6 billion rescue package for Russia last month. The rouble strengthened, the stock market soared, even the sun came out and those Russians who can afford them headed for their dachas. So, after grudgingly passing some but not all of the laws needed to implement the anti-crisis package drawn up by Sergei Kiriyenko's Government, did the ever-grumbling members of the Duma. Foreign governments crossed their fingers that Mr Kiriyenko's reforming team would make the most of the breathing space to restructure Russia's \$24 billion in short-term debt, raise the tax revenues needed to close its budget deficit and give longer-term reforms a chance to revive growth.

The wild stock market swings have been exacerbated by two factors unconnected with government policies — the resumed slide in the Japanese yen which is affecting all markets, and the exaggerated impact on prices of thin holiday trading. Provided that the Government's reform drive does not lose momentum, it is too early to conclude that Russia's breathing space has vanished along with investor confidence.

### CONTINENTAL DRIFT

Cook's EU agenda is neither original nor radical

The Foreign Secretary used an interview with the *New Statesman* published yesterday to outline three "new", allegedly "big", ideas — couched in a constructively sceptical tone — that would be the core of Britain's submission to an EU summit in October. That meeting in Vienna is supposed to set a direction for the future of the European Union. Other governments will be able to update themselves on his thinking from their filing cabinets, rather than tax their embassy fax machines in London.

meant to exercise control over the European Commission. The notion of a clean division between European and national spheres of responsibility also has a certain familiarity. These distinctions were supposed to be settled by the Maastricht and Amsterdam treaties. The Foreign Secretary appears to acknowledge now that those documents contained enormous ambiguities. His proposals are likely to reinforce them. Mr Cook claims that certain "cross-border" issues — such as "the environment, trade, prosperity" — must inevitably be dealt with by Brussels. It is hard to imagine what aspects of economic life currently under national control could not be forced into one of these categories.

### OLD DOGS, NEW TRICKS

'Age diversity' should have no place in the political lexicon

Nowadays it only takes the travails of the fifth decade of Man's Seven Ages to etch wrinkles on the brow. The Employment Minister, Andrew Smith, seems at only 47 to be already sensitive to the setting sun. Two years older than Tony Blair, he is still only a junior minister. Yesterday he tried to raise his profile by lecturing Britain's employers on something which he may soon have reason to fear: the evils of age discrimination. Unfortunately for Mr Smith, the document he published yesterday will not help his chances of promotion.

suddenly becomes suitable or unsuitable for a job. Fitness and health withstanding, it is a person's skill and ability that should determine their employability.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Folly of losing vocational training in new universities

From Dr George Brosan

Sir, Your leading article of August 11, "The numbers game", refers to the Major Government's forum attempt "to end intellectual snobbery" by abolishing the binary divide between polytechnics and universities.

cent of British employees possessed craft skills compared with over 50 per cent in Germany.

From Mr Bruce Oliver

Sir, Whilst those who claim to represent education continue to promote a charade, they cannot be surprised when the public at large, who rightly feel patronised, take issue with them.

### The myths that surround mink

From the Director of Animal Aid

Sir, The anthropomorphic attitude taken over the released mink in Hampshire (reports, August 10 and 11) is totally over-the-top and incorrect.

### PoWs' pay

From Mr Maurice Baird-Smith, DFC

Sir, It is good news that the Swiss have agreed to repay the victims of the Holocaust the money and gold stolen by the Nazis (World in brief, August 13). Yet relatively few are still around.

### Nurses need to feel highly prized

From the General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing

Sir, Professor Roger Dyson's assertions on why we have the worst nurse shortage crisis for 25 years do not stand up to scrutiny (letters, August 11).

organising patient care, death rates have reduced by 5 per cent.

### Embassy bombings

From Mr Ansel Harris

Sir, During the Gulf War, Israel, a non-combatant, suffered a series of Scud missile attacks. She was prevailed upon not to retaliate.

### Testing times

From Mr Giles Gordon

Sir, As a Scot who loves cricket (and rejoices that Scotland has qualified for the next World Cup), I am bewildered by the response accorded by the English to their team's victory in the final Test against South Africa (letters, August 11 and 12).

### Early signs

From Mrs Diana Sparkes

Sir, Dr Matt Jones (letter, August 8; see also letter, August 12) may like to know that McDonald's has clearly cracked the millennium bug.

### Compensation awards

From Dr David Cohen

Sir, I am a retired solicitor. Long ago I did a certain amount of negligence work and I think that, like others in my profession, I helped those who had been wronged. Although I was paid, I was not "setting out to make money" (letter, August 11) from someone's mistake.

### Swindon in space

From Dr J. P. M. Bensted

Sir, Letters today on our galaxy being merely a "Swindon in space" from New Cross, Exeter and Newbury — but not from Swindon.

### Paper chase

From Mr Maurice Jay

Sir, I have recently helped a friend to complete an application form for housing benefit. The form has 12 pages and contains over 200 questions.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

### To boldly go

From Mr A. J. Saunders

Sir, May I be the first to roundly condemn *The New Oxford Dictionary of English* for allowing the use of split infinitives (report, August 13)?



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Institution of Engineers

OBITUARIES

EVE BOSWELL

Eve Boswell, popular singer, died in Durban, South Africa, yesterday, aged 76. She was born on May 11, 1922.

All the female singers who rose to prominence during the television and pop boom of the 1950s, Eve Boswell was the most glamorous and perhaps the most versatile. A petite (5 ft 2 in), vivacious brunette, she won immense popularity as a recording star which not only took her to the top of the British charts, but also to success in films, television, radio, cabaret, pantomime and variety, in which she topped the bill at the London Palladium, and in three Royal Command performances.



From her South African roots, Eve Boswell rose to the London Palladium

Born Eva Keleti in Budapest, Hungary, she came from showbusiness stock. Her aunt, the opera singer Elza Keleti, was the official vocal coach for the Royal Opera House in Budapest, and her parents toured the world as a juggling act, billed as The Three Hugs. Educated in Lausanne, Switzerland, she was taught tap-dancing, the clarinet and the alto saxophone by her father, and trained as a classical pianist at the Budapest Academy. She made her stage debut with the family troupe in 1938, at the age of 16.

The outbreak of war in 1939 found the Keleti family touring variety theatres in Britain. As their Hungarian nationality made them aliens, they accepted an offer from the Boswell Brothers' Circus in South Africa, where Eva fell in love with Trevor McIntosh, the nephew of the circus owners. They eloped and married against her parents' wishes in 1944, the year in which their son Michael was born. McIntosh taught his wife English, changed her name to Eve Boswell (after the circus), and became her manager. As a solo singer, she joined Roy Martin and his band at the Coconut Grove, Johannesburg, and began to broadcast on South African radio. The English songwriter and pianist Adrian Foley — the 8th and present Baron Foley — was impressed by her interpretation of his compositions, and as a result of his recommendations, she received an offer from the British band leader Geraldine, with whose orchestra she made her solo stage debut in England at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, on June 1, 1949.

B-side, she recorded a South African tune with new lyrics, *Pickin' A Chicken*. It rose to number nine in the charts, remaining there for 13 weeks.

In February 1956 she appeared on television in *Sunday Night at the London Palladium*, and a month later she topped the bill in variety at the same theatre. More hits followed, including *Young and Foolish, I'll Walk Alone* and *I'll Buy That Dream*, a film appearance with Adrienne Corri in *The Big Chance* in 1957, and two popular albums, *Sugar and Spice* and *Sentimental Eve*. She also appeared on American television in *The Ed Sullivan Show* and *The Nat King Cole TV Special*. In 1958 she joined Paul Robeson in *Sunday Night at the London Palladium*.

The 1960s brought a return to her native Hungary in her own television series. After the death of her husband, Trevor McIntosh, from cancer at the age of 52 in 1970, she opened her own singing studio in Wembley Park, and in 1973 she joined her former mentor, Geraldine, in the Harlech Television series *Time Was*.

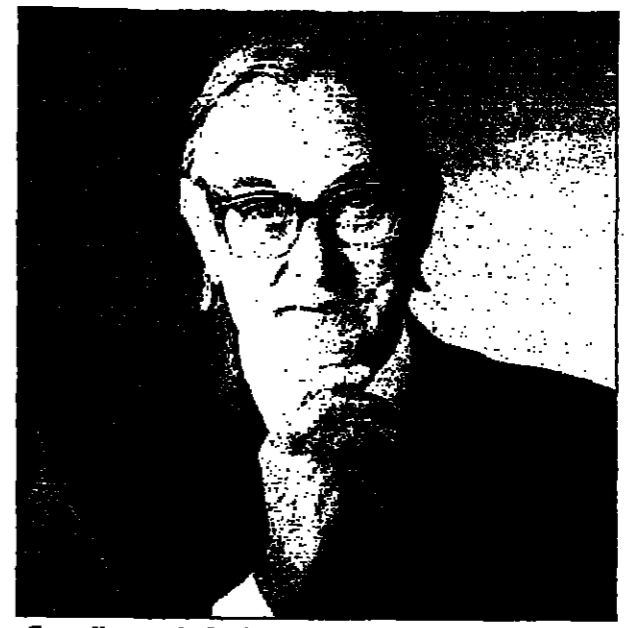
In 1976 she returned to South Africa to marry the radio producer Henry Holloway, who produced her last recorded album, *It's A Breeze*, (1979). They were divorced in 1985. In 1988, she made a third marriage to the South African insurance broker Kenneth Taylor. They divorced in 1997.

Her golden jubilee in showbusiness in 1988 was marked by the release in Britain of Hugh Palmer's Boswell compilation, *Sentimental Journey*, and she made her final British stage appearance at the Beck Theatre, Hayes, on July 28, 1988, still glamorous in a sequined black trouser-suit, and delighting her fans with the enduring strength and range of her voice.

The recent plunge of the South African rand had greatly reduced the value of her Durban home, and last month she spent two weeks at Brinsworth House, the Entertainment Artists' Benevolent Home at Twickenham, with a view to settling there permanently. Her visit was cut short by the news that her close friend, Luke Du Preez, whom she called "my unofficial adopted son", had been found dead at the age of 45 at her Durban home. She was on the point of disbanding her Durban singing school, which had 54 pupils, and moving back to Britain at the time of her own death.

Dr Philip Connell, CBE, child psychiatrist and drug dependency expert, died on July 26 aged 76. He was born on August 6, 1921.

DR PHILIP CONNELL



Connell: a particular interest in the outcomes of drug use

PHILIP CONNELL came late to medicine, because between leaving St Paul's School and entering St Bartholomew's Medical College he worked for a charity. This made him a fluent typist — a very rare skill among doctors born shortly after the First World War. He qualified as a doctor in 1951, and following house jobs, moved to the Maudsley Hospital in 1953 to train as a psychiatrist. He came under the influence of Dr D. L. Davies, who fostered his interest in the psychiatric sequelae of amphetamine misuse. His research, which included conducting biochemical studies, formed his doctoral thesis, and was published as a monograph. He could justifiably claim to have discovered one of the causes of Bleuler's "group of the schizophrenias".

His first specialisation was in child psychiatry, and in 1957 he went as consultant to Newcastle, returning to be consultant in child psychiatry at the Maudsley in 1963. His responsibilities for adolescents coincided with the spread of the use of "purple hearts" by the young. He soon found himself setting up a drug dependency clinical and research unit at the Bethlem Royal Hospital. Despite this new responsibility, however, he continued in child psychiatry for the whole of his professional career.

He served on many committees for the Royal College of Psychiatrists, being the first chairman of its child and adolescent section, and was later vice-president of the college. The many other bodies of which he was a member or chairman included the Maudsley Hospital itself, various national committees and the World Health Organisation. He was consultant adviser to the Department of Health for 12 years, and at different times

chairman of the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence and president of the Society for the Study of Addiction.

His work as chairman of the Home Office's statutory advisory council on the misuse of drugs was not easy, for the council contained representatives of diverse points of view: those wanting to deal with the problem by changing society, those believing that social work was all, those who considered that the only effective preventive measures were detection and seizure of imports, and those who claimed that extending psychiatric services would cure addicts of their habit. He proved an excellent chairman, restraining exuberance while leaving enthusiasm intact.

His last major commitment was, though less well known, just as important. He was appointed to the General Medical Council by the Royal College of Psychiatrists for a period of 12 years, and became its screener for health, responsible for identifying sick doctors and accepting them under the health procedures so that

they could be treated rather than disciplined. It was his task to send doctors for medical and psychiatric examination, and then to prescribe appropriate limitations on their behaviour and practice, as well as setting up supervisory procedures designed to protect the public during the period of rehabilitation. This task called for compassion and firmness, and the overall success of the health procedures owed much to his efforts.

He always said he was not a narrow academic, but had to his credit a groundbreaking piece of research and many other publications, the training of many experts in drug dependency, and the care of many members of the medical profession. To have done well for students, colleagues, the speciality and the public is by no means an unacademic record.

He was married twice, first to Marjorie Gilham in 1948, by whom he had two sons. This marriage was dissolved, and in 1973 he married Cecily Mary Harper. He is survived by his wife and his two sons.

THE EARL OF JERSEY

The 9th Earl of Jersey died on August 9 aged 88. He was born on February 15, 1910.

The Earl of Jersey's long life was marked by extremes of happiness and tragedy that might have come from the pages of a Galsworthy saga. He inherited as 9th Earl at the age of 13, just as he went to Eton, but within a year he was struck down by rheumatic fever which affected his heart.

Making a good recovery, he grew to be an exceptionally handsome young man, and in 1932 he married an Australian beauty, Patricia Kenneth — from whom he was divorced in 1937. He then married the film actress Virginia Cherrill, who had starred as the blind girl in Chaplin's *City Lights* (1937) and was the former wife of Cary Grant.

In 1935 Lord Jersey gave the architect Sir Edwin Lutyens one of his last great country house commissions: to rebuild Middleton Park in Oxford-



Lord Jersey: a considerable connoisseur and collector

shire, where the family kept its numerous racehorses (an enthusiasm that Lord Jersey did not share). According to the memorial volumes of Lutyens's work, "much of the burden of discussion and all the weight of execution" was taken on by Lutyens's younger son, Robert, but the grand old man's contribution is evident in the extraordinary assurance and elegance of the house.

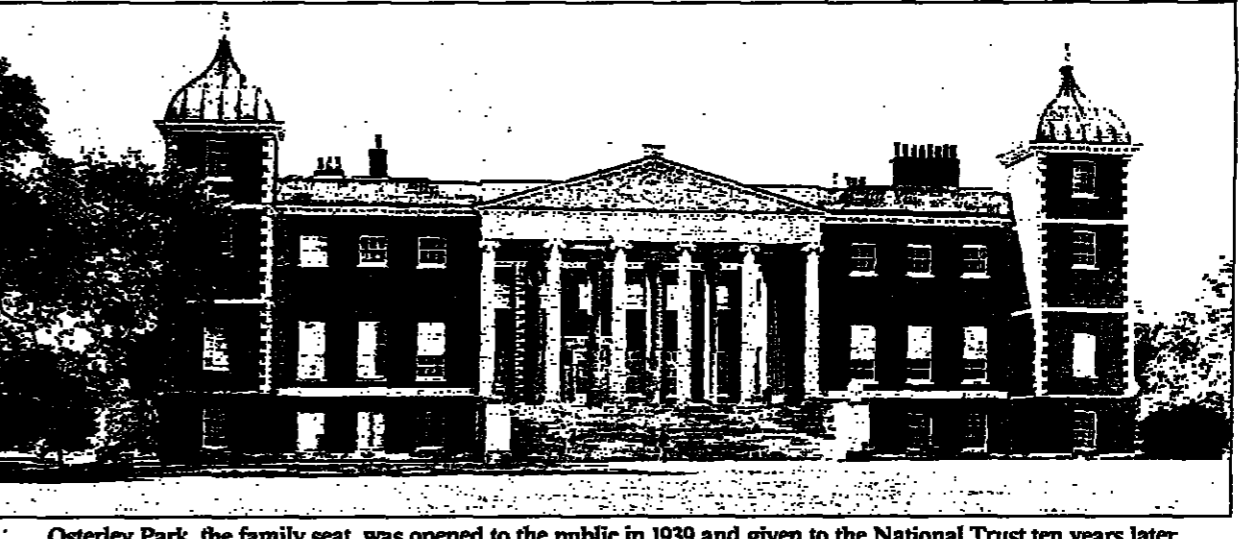
Lord Jersey was a considerable connoisseur and an early

collector of Impressionist paintings. During the war he became a major in the Gunners, serving in anti-aircraft command at Scapa Flow and becoming a radar instructor.

After the war his diverse interests included a successful antique and decorating shop. Divorced again in 1946, he fell in love with a beautiful young Italian girl, Bianca Mottroni, whom he married in 1947. Together they went to Jersey to see the island whence his title came, and liked it so much that they settled there.

Though few Jerseyans can have been aware that they had an earl, in 1997 Lord Jersey's ancestor had unusually been created Earl "of the Island of Jersey", where the young Charles II had lived for several months after fleeing from England. The 1st Earl was a first cousin of Charles's mistress Barbara Villiers. Lord Jersey was the first Earl to live in the island.

Shy and gentle, but witty and charming too, Lord Jersey will be remembered as a man



Osterley Park, the family seat, was opened to the public in 1939 and given to the National Trust ten years later

of extraordinary generosity, not only by his friends but by a number of curators. Among them was James Lees-Milne, to whom Lord Jersey gave a piece of fur to line his overcoat which got Lees-Milne through the "Arctic winters" of the war.

The family's great seat at Osterley Park in Middlesex had been advertised "to let" in *Country Life* in 1926, complete with furniture and paintings. Lord Jersey went to live there briefly in 1937 while Middleton was being rebuilt. Two years later he opened Osterley to the public, enterprisingly showing modern paintings on the upper floor as a contrast to the Adam furniture in the state rooms.

Like other owners who sought to give their houses to the nation or the county council, Lord Jersey was involved in years of fruitless negotiation, finally succeeding in giving the house and grounds to the National Trust in 1949, while the Victoria and Albert Museum acquired the furniture and took over opening.

Tragically, some of the family's best paintings, including a Rubens ceiling painting of the Apotheosis of the Duke of Buckingham and a Van Dyke of Charles I were burnt in a warehouse fire on their way to his new home.

Lord Jersey made a steady series of gifts to Osterley, which since the National Trust took over in the 1980s have included Sevres porcelain, superb silver (including two marvellous trays given by the Portuguese Jewish community to the Childs as Lord Mayors of London), Jersey racing cups and 18th-century Chinese parade vases, a Kirkman harpsichord, miniatures of the family and a suit of blue velvet which Lord Jersey had worn at the Georgian Group ball at Osterley in 1939, and which was copied from the Ramsay portrait of Francis Child. Today, largely at Lady Jersey's prompting, Osterley is constantly filled with flowers grown in the garden.

The great Adam remodeling of Osterley had been be-

gun for the banker Robert Child, and the house passed to the Jerseys in 1792, when it was left to a daughter, rather than a son who had eloped. From that time the family carried the name of Child-Villiers. Lord Jersey, like the 19th-century earls who ran Child & Co, was on the board of a succession of banks.

He was also for a long period a director and major shareholder of the Hotel L'Horizon in Jersey, where at his insistence champagne was sold without a mark-up so that guests could enjoy themselves to the full. To the distress of regulars, later owners failed to appreciate the excellence of this marketing strategy.

He was an early supporter of Gerald Durrell's Jersey Zoo, and first chairman of the Jersey Association of Youth and Friendship, which, with its hostels and flats, has been a pioneer in providing deprived young people with a start in life.

In the steep valleys surrounding Radier Manor, Lord

and Lady Jersey laid out lovely grounds, with the help of Michael Haworth Booth.

Lord Jersey took a strong interest in pedigree Jersey cattle, serving as president of the World Jersey Cattle Bureau. To ensure the purity of the native breed, no Jersey, however pedigree, is allowed back into the island, but Lord Jersey was active in the development of artificial insemination and the use of bull semen.

Lord Jersey was known to his friends as Grandy, from his family's courtesy title of Viscount Grandison. Last year he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, but tragically both of his sons predeceased him. The younger, Charles, suddenly lost his hearing and died. The elder, George, Viscount Villiers, died of a heart attack in March this year, aged 49. Lord Jersey, who was in hospital with a broken ankle, never really recovered from the blow. His grandson, William, a 21-year-old actor, has succeeded as the 10th Earl.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

JETLINE advertisement with phone number 0171 360 1111

FLIGHTWISE advertisement with phone number 01476 56089

Jetworld advertisement with phone number 01273 277 877

CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS advertisement for The British Kidney Patient Association

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RAF advertisement: You can rely on the RAF

RAF advertisement: Can the RAF rely on you?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEGAL, PUBLIC COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES advertisement

PUBLIC NOTICES

UNIVERSAL PROPERTY LIMITED advertisement

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL, PUBLIC COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES advertisement

LEGAL NOTICES

UNIVERSAL PROPERTY LIMITED advertisement

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LEGAL, PUBLIC COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES advertisement

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UNIVERSAL PROPERTY LIMITED advertisement

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL, PUBLIC COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES advertisement

AIR RAIDS ON LONDON

SEVEN ATTACKS IN AN HOUR. (From Our Aeronautical Correspondent.) The opening of the Air Attack on London last night provided plenty of excitement, for within an hour seven bombing raids were concentrated on the Metropolis, and in a clear sky to almost 10,000ft, closely knit formations of bombers could be seen making their way to such targets as the Air Ministry and Chelsea, with fighting squadrons in hot pursuit, and here and there actually engaging them over the middle of London.

ON THIS DAY

August 14, 1928

Though these simulated "Air Raids on London" were carried out 11 years before the start of the Second World War, our Aeronautical Correspondent's account has a certain horrid reality when read today.

The seven raids by the day bombers, presuming that all the machines had found targets, would have meant that about 20,000lb of bombs would have been dropped on London within an hour. The raids were timed to take place at intervals of 15 minutes to half an hour. When the night phase started 32 machine raids were scheduled for the hours of darkness with a total weight in bombs of 32,000lb — making an aggregate of over 23 tons. The targets for the day raids were the Beckton petrol dump, near Waltham; No 1 Aircraft Stores, Kidbrooke; the North Tower, Crystal Palace, the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea; North Weald Aerodrome, Essex; Hornchurch Aerodrome; and the Air Ministry. The night objectives were placed at Kidbrooke, Croydon and in Richmond Park.





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# THE TIMES

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TODAY



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**STAY CALM OVER GRADES**  
Education Page 40

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY AUGUST 14 1998

## Russian freefall batters world markets

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

WORLD stock markets suffered another crushing loss of confidence as the economic and financial crisis in Russia intensified.

Trading on the Russian stock market was suspended temporarily yesterday as shares plunged after George Soros, the international financier, said that Russia's markets crisis had now reached a "terminal phase" and called for the rouble to be devalued.

Russian shares dropped initially by 15 per cent, prompting the suspension of trade. By the close, stocks were quoted around 6.5 per cent lower and Russian state television had dubbed events "Russia's Black Thursday". The interest rates on Russian short-dated treasury bills soared to as high as 210 per cent.

The sombre mood was blackened even further by news that Moody's Investors Services and Standard & Poor's, the world's leading credit rating agencies, had lowered their ratings on a range of Russia's foreign currency debt, bank deposits and banks.

The Russian central bank announced that its foreign exchange rate gold reserves had fallen to \$17 billion by August 7 from \$18.4 billion at the end of July. The bank has been forced to sell dollars to support the rouble in recent days and intervened in the markets again yesterday.

The fear is that the central bank will start eating into the \$22.6 billion of funds provided last month by the International Monetary Fund which were supposed to be a stand-by facility to restore confidence, not a source of crisis funding to support the currency.

In a letter to *The Financial Times* yesterday, Mr Soros advocated a devaluation of the rouble by between 15 and 25 per cent and the setting up of a currency board, backed by \$30 billion of funds from the IMF and the Group of Seven industrialised nations.

Denis Kiselev, Deputy Chairman of Russia's central bank, immediately rejected the idea of a currency board and vowed to fight on to avoid a rouble devaluation.

However, Mr Soros' gloomy assessment of Russia's position focused even more attention on the country and hit stock markets around the world.

In London, the FTSE 100 index fell by more than 1 per cent to record its lowest close since late January. It fell 62.7 points to close at 5,399.5. At one point the index had fallen 111 points.

Across Europe, stock markets fell by as much as 3 per cent in morning trade but most indices recovered to close around 1 per cent lower.

On Wall Street, an early rally faded almost immediately and the Dow Jones industrial average soon registered a loss of more than 50 points, prompting New York Stock Exchange trading curbs to be put in place. By mid-session trading, the Dow was quoted 53.81 points lower at 8,499.15 in extremely volatile trading.

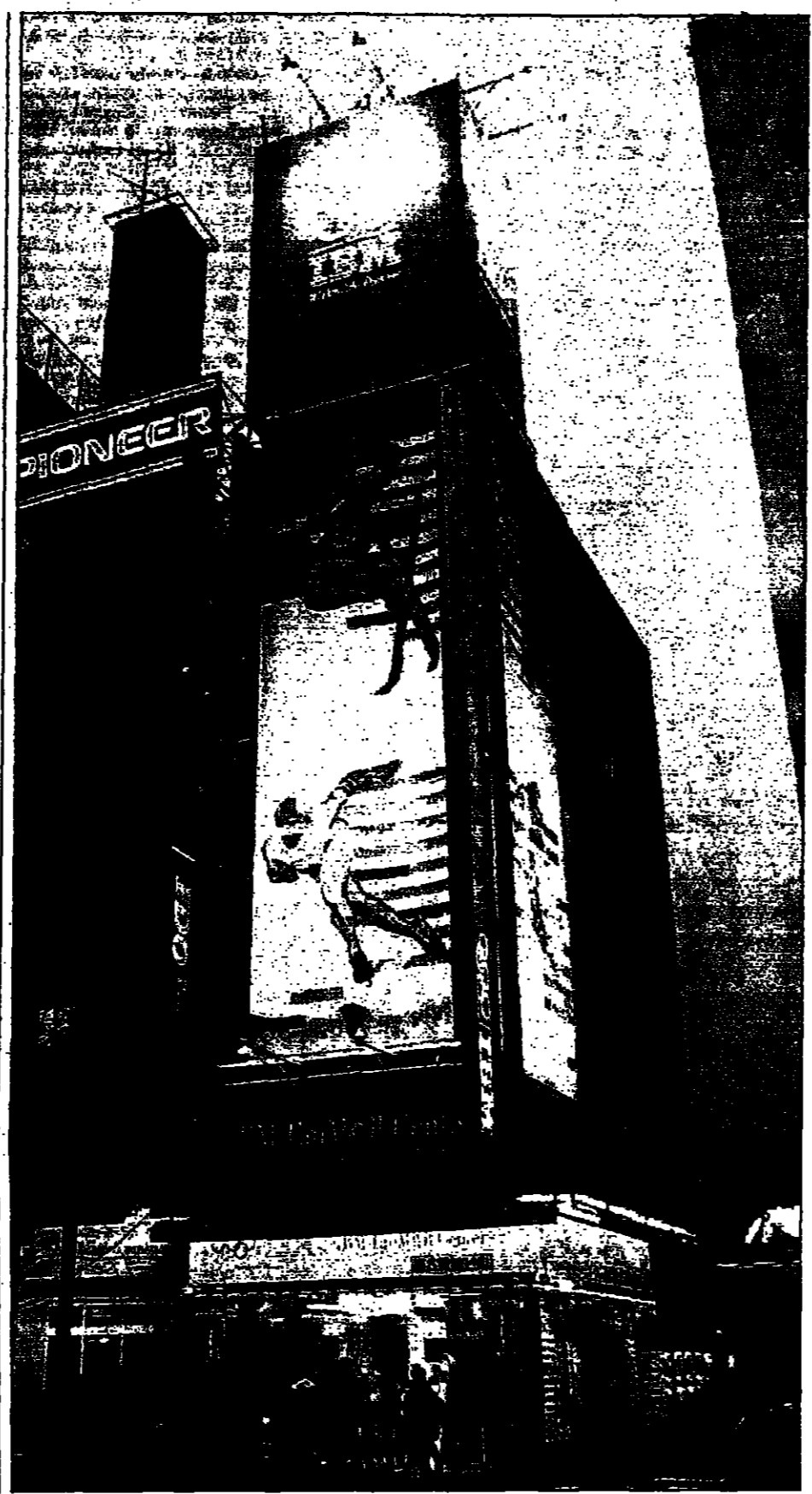
One bright spot was a rally in world oil prices on surprise news that Saudi Arabia was cutting production. Oil prices, which had fallen to ten-year lows on Tuesday, rose by 46 cents to \$12.23 a barrel.

Russia has been hit particularly hard by the plunge in crude prices because oil and gas makes up more than 50 per cent of its exports.

Events in Moscow only added to the continuing gloom in Asia. In Far Eastern trading yesterday, Malaysian stocks fell by 5 per cent to their lowest level for a decade and Hong Kong shares lost nearly 3 per cent.

By contrast stocks in Tokyo registered a modest gain, the first positive day in eight sessions.

Leading article, page 21  
Rouble dilemma, page 29



IBM made a big impact at the Nagano Winter Olympic Games in Japan

## IOC feared bankruptcy if it agreed IBM terms

By JASON NISSE AND TAM SIN BERRY

THE International Olympic Committee yesterday revealed that its 33-year-old relationship with IBM had been ended because the computer group had wanted to charge so much for technology that it would have bankrupted the Olympics.

The revelations came after IBM's announcement last week that it would cease its sponsorship of the Games after the Sydney Olympics in 2000. IBM is the Olympics' third-oldest sponsor, after Coca-Cola and Kodak, and the termination of the deal was a huge surprise.

Yesterday the IOC, speaking for the first time on the issue, said that IBM had refused to continue to provide the bulk of technological services for free and said it would charge "hundreds of millions of dollars" to provide services for the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

Michael Payne, marketing director of the IOC, said that it had asked other information technology groups how much it would cost to provide similar services, and the cost had been "less than \$100 million".

Mr Payne said: "If we were to force the costs IBM was projecting on Salt Lake City it would have bankrupted the organising committee."

IBM agreed that it had told the IOC that the costs for future Olympic Games would have been "hundreds of millions of dollars", but it would not elaborate further.

The computer group was heavily criticised for glitches in the systems that were used for the Atlanta Olympic Games and it is estimated to have spent more than \$100 mil-

lion on services for the Nagano Games in Japan last winter, charging the organisers less than a tenth of that figure.

The two sides also fell out because the IOC wanted to split the running of Internet services from the main Olympic sponsorship. IBM has run the Website for the past three Olympic Games but it was told that it would have to pay up to \$40 million on top of other sponsorship to continue this deal. "This was not in our best interests," said Deb Gottheimer, an IBM spokesperson.

Mr Payne told *The Times* that the IOC will now look for a panel of information technology providers. It will have a systems co-ordinator — with EDS and Andersen Consulting understood to be favourites — and a separate hardware supplier. Hewlett Packard and Sun Microsystems are expected to be in the running to take on the latter sponsorship.

The IOC has ten other main sponsors for the Sydney Olympics, and the Sydney organising committee has nine local sponsors signed up. Mr Payne revealed that two of the main sponsors — Coca-Cola and Time — have signed new deals stretching to 2008 and he hoped to announce soon that three more of the panel are extending their contracts.

Visa International is expected to be one of those announced. The credit card company yesterday said that it was extremely pleased with its partnership with the IOC, which dates back to 1988. A spokesman said: "We look forward to continuing dialogue with the IOC in defining our role beyond Sydney 2000."

### BUSINESS TODAY

**STOCK MARKET INDICES**

FTSE 100	5399.5	(-62.7)
Yield	3.09%	
FTSE All Share	2638.87	(-29.48)
NASDAQ	15382.02	(+3.05)
New York	8499.15	(-53.81)
Dow Jones	8499.15	(-53.81)
S&P Composite	1978.94	(-5.28)

**US RATE**

Federal Funds	5 1/2%	(5 1/2%)
Long bond	106 1/2%	(107 1/2%)
Yield	5.64%	(5.65%)

**LONDON MONEY**

3-month interbank	7 1/2%	(7 1/2%)
Libor long gtd		
future (Sep)	109.91	(110.55)

**STERLING**

New York		
London	1.6270	(1.6270)
Frankfurt	1.6258	(1.6303)
DM	2.9010	(2.8915)
FF	1.7138	(1.7138)
SF	2.4187	(2.4187)
Yen	236.02	(237.48)
£ index	104.0	(103.8)

**US DOLLAR**

London		
DM	1.7855	(1.7852)
FF	1.8857	(1.8855)
SF	1.4507	(1.4507)
Yen	145.07	(146.20)
£ index	114.8	(114.5)

Tokyo close Yen 146.48

**NORTH SEA OIL**

Brent 15-day (Oct)	\$12.46	(\$12.00)
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**GOLD**

London close	\$284.85	(\$283.55)
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© denotes midday trading prices

### Boeing to cut 28,000 jobs

Up to 28,000 employees will be dismissed at Boeing, the world's biggest aerospace company, as it struggles to make aircraft on schedule and keep costs down. Boeing will move the final assembly of certain 737 models to Long Beach, California, where its merger partner McDonnell Douglas used to build aircraft. The company, which employs 240,000 people, has been under pressure since last year when it revealed exceptional charges of more than \$2.6 billion (£1.5 billion). Page 26

## APR link-up with Europe

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

**BORROWERS** should find it easier to access lenders in mainland Europe under a Government proposal to reform the APR (annual percentage rate) system of measuring the cost of credit.

Dr Kim Howells, Consumer Affairs Minister, has announced that he will implement a European Union directive aimed at harmonising APR with the rest of Europe.

This would enable borrowers to make meaningful comparisons between loan products in different countries, he said.

The Government is taking steps to address borrowers' confusion over APR, which was introduced in 1980 to help borrowers understand the cost of loans by adding the interest rate with any additional charge by lenders. However, the complex formula has been criticised for creating anomalies, particularly by understating the true cost of mortgages and bank overdrafts.

Two months ago the Government signalled that it would be taking action to prevent mortgage lenders from deceiving borrowers with unrealistic APRs.

Several lenders offering low-start, fixed-rate mortgages had based their APR on the cheap rate of interest initially offered, sometimes as low as 1 per cent, arguing they did not know what their variable rate would be in future.

The Government has dismissed this and from next year lenders will have to calculate the APR across the 15-year life of the loan.

## Cendant gloom deepens

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

**CENDANT**, owner of Avis car rentals, tried to put its fraudulent merger behind it yesterday with the presentation of results from the four-month investigation into accounting irregularities.

Michael Monaco, finance director, said: "We uncovered much greater fraud [at CUC] than we had any conception of when we launched this effort in April." Cendant was created last year with the merger of CUC and HFS, two franchise and direct marketing companies.

It has restated accounts for the last three years, lowering last year's pre-tax earnings by \$400 million (£250 million).

Called to account, page 29

## Over 1,000 go at Fosters

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

**FOSTERS TRADING**, the menswear retailer, has emerged from administration with 1,100 fewer staff and the closure of 130 branches.

The management team led by David Carter-Johnson, managing director, that called in the administrators, is being handed back control of the company after five months. They will retain 40 of its larger and more successful stores, and 600 staff.

BDO Stoy Hayward, the accountancy firm that was brought in by Fosters in March as administrator, has persuaded the company's creditors to accept a settlement of about 10 per cent of the money they were owed. Usually at least 75 per cent of creditors have to accept the terms of-

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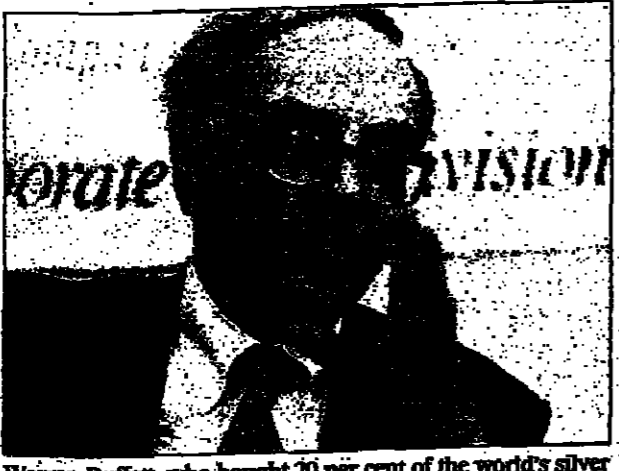
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## Buffett's silver tarnished as price slides

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK



**WARREN BUFFETT'S** year-old bet on the silver market has now turned into a net loser and a blemish on his reputation. Silver prices have fallen below the average price at which the US investment guru bought 20 per cent of the world's silver supply.

Yesterday, an ounce of silver was trading at \$5.05, down from \$5.25, after the Asian financial crisis further reduced demand. Silver prices had risen from \$4 a year ago to \$7 early this year when Mr Buffett sparked a price rise.

He is believed to have paid an average price of \$5.10 for each of his 130 million ounces. There are no reasons to believe that Mr Buffett has sold his silver, traders said, creating a \$6.5 million loss. The hold-

ing represents about 2 per cent of his total investment portfolio.

A silver trader said: "This doesn't yet hurt Buffett but all the people who started buying because of him have been hurt. They started buying way above today's price. Buffett's really lost credibility in the commodities market."

In February, Mr Buffett announced his silver-buying spree amid accusations that he was trying to corner the market. He dispelled talk of replicating the famous attempt by the Hunt brothers to buy the entire world silver supply. His rationale for his first significant foray into the commodities market was an assessment suggesting a long-term lack of supply pushing up prices. No such bottleneck has occurred.

Speaking in May at the annual meeting of Berkshire Hathaway, his holding com-

pany, Mr Buffett said: "We thought that the figures on production and demand were such that it would require a higher price to establish equilibrium."

Followers of Mr Buffett had their hopes raised in July when silver prices edged to a two-month high. A hint of the supply constraints predicted by Mr Buffett lifted prices but they quickly fell back again when the Japanese economy and the yen showed further signs of weakness.

Observers of Mr Buffett point out that the so-called Sage of Omaha is at his best when assessing the potential of US companies. Berkshire Hathaway is a major shareholder in Gillette, McDonald's and Coca-Cola. But it has few foreign companies in its portfolio and in the past Mr Buffett has repeatedly warned against betting on short or medium-term economic shifts.

Warren Buffett, who bought 20 per cent of the world's silver



صكذامن لإصل

# Clear up financial chicanery

## COMMENTARY by our City Editor



In the 18 years since annual percentage rates (APR) were first brought in with the express intention of helping consumers to understand exactly how much they are being charged, confusion has reigned. Proving Fermat's Last Theorem is as nothing to the calculations needed to work out what the APR should be on a 25-year mortgage, with a commitment fee, a fixed rate for three years and compulsory insurance.

In the marketplace you have banks and building societies offering what appear to be identical products, yet with subtle differences that bring about wildly varying APRs. There are anomalies, such as the failure by most lenders to include the cost of the insurance products they force customers to buy so they can receive cheap deals. (The Government is outlawing this practice for discount holidays, so why will it not take action for far more important products?) And there are genuine gripes by the lenders that using the standard variable rate offered when a fixed-rate deal is taken out to calculate APR is pointless because it will have changed by the time the borrower actually ends up paying this rate of interest.

So it is with some relief that one learns that the Government is reviewing the use of APRs. There are two elements. One is a genuine investigation into whether "low-cost" mortgages actually

deliver what they promise. The other is a plan to harmonise the calculation of APRs in the UK with the rest of Europe, a move that should keep a few rocket scientists busy for a decade or so. The idea is to create an APR that is easy to calculate and covers all eventualities. And while they are at it, a cure for the common cold would be nice.

The fundamental issue the Government needs to address, though, is whether or not the financial services industry is interested in telling its customers exactly what they are getting. The potential mortgage, pension or Pep purchaser is offered such a smorgasbord of choices in the marketplace that most sensible consumers are bewildered beyond belief. There is no clarity in charging structures, and what the pensions mis-selling saga has made all too clear is that the independent financial advisers who are paid to help people often pay more attention to their commissions than to their clients.

Although Helen Liddell was keen to name and shame when she was at the Treasury, this applied only to the mis-selling scandal and looks more like a career move to take her to a plum job at the Scottish Office than a serious

attempt to address the issue. These days the high street lenders are more interested in the bottom line, and getting a 15 per cent return on capital, than the relationships they have with their customers. The Government's willingness to take on these merchants of usury will be tempered by the fact that two of them — Martin Taylor and Sir Peter Davis — have been all but seconded to the Government.

### Gassing about new suppliers

For most consumers, it seems, changing your gas supplier is a daunting prospect. To reach the promised land of lower bills, you must swim through a boiling sea of opportunity, confusion, simultaneous equations and sharks. No wonder only the brave or innocent undertake the journey. For anyone who has had a

mobile phone, however, utility competition appears to be no big deal. It is just a matter of going for the best special offer, reading the small print, taking the plunge and getting out as soon as you realise that you have made a mistake, all is not what it seemed or the next special introductory offer is better.

You don't even need a mobile phone to gain 1990s consumer cred. Just move your credit card balance round every few months and you will get the idea. When everyone is trying to con everyone else, consumers can exploit competing suppliers as well as the other way round.

Faced with a bewildering choice and steel-reinforced snake-skin shoes wedged in the front door — the upright citizens of Northern England or the South West stuck in their droves with British Gas. Competition grew only slowly.

When gas competition finally came to London and the stock-

broker belt, the pace picked up. Ofgas, displaying its usual bias, can now proudly reveal that the numbers switching have doubled in the past four months. Less than three months after competition reached the capital, a fifth of all domestic customers have either switched or contracted to a new supplier.

Centrica, the inheritor of British Gas, is no doubt delighted to see a goodly number of lost sheep return to the fold. It must know, however, that the sooner it loses more than a quarter of the market and others have solid, profitable shares, the sooner it can hope to escape the regulatory straitjacket.

In practice, bureaucratic survival instincts will put this day off indefinitely. But don't tell the electricity companies, which are just about to embark on the same rural ride to competition. Only the four regional electricity companies involved will be able to compete for the 750,000 custom-

ers in the first tranche. Centrica will at least be able to get its own back, having until now had to endure the invasion of its own territory by protected monopolists. Among upright provincial householders, it may well prove the most effective competitor if it can get its sums right.

### A crony at the heart of Europe

Lord Hollick is an inspired choice to head a new pro-European Monetary Union business group. He is close to Labour — being a long-time party member, friend of Neil Kinnock and advisor to Mrs Blockin and now President Mandy at the DTI — without actually being part of the Government. Though one can feel his strings being pulled, like Pinocchio, he can still act freely of his masters. And being in the media world, he knows a thing or two about publicity.

Though this seems like yet another case of Labour using its friends to do what the Government finds difficult to do itself, this is actually a clever and subtle ruse. Despite the publicity that anti-euro campaigners in

the business community have received, it appears that most business leaders think the euro is, if not a good thing, an inevitable thing. Increasingly, Labour will be looking to employers to sell the euro to their employees, explaining to them that if Britain remains outside the single currency, industry will be at a serious competitive disadvantage.

The nearer we get to a referendum on EMU, the more business leaders will be under pressure to throw their weight behind the European cause. Just like in the 1970s when the Wilson administration sold the Common Market to a reluctant electorate, Labour will spin and spin to win the euro debate. Why else would Tony Blair hand over the DTI to the arch-publicists and pro-European Peter Mandelson?

### High Street clearout

The curse of Sears has now swamped Fosters, the menswear retailer, which yesterday shed 1,100 staff to come back to life. The group was a buyout which took on too much debt, and could not change a perception that it was the sick man of the high street. The dismal tales told by Selfridges, Saxeone and the rump of Sears indicate that while it is easy to blame Liam Strong for his poor stewardship, he clearly inherited a legacy of mismanagement. Sir Charles Clore must be spinning in his grave.

### Glass's in £126m US takeover

Glass's Group, the provider of automotive information services and related software products, is being acquired by America's Hicks Muse Tate & Furst for about £126 million. Under the terms of the agreement, the institutional shareholders of Glass's will sell their stakes while the existing management team will rollover a significant portion of their equity holdings alongside Hicks Muse. Jack Furst, a partner of Hicks Muse, said Glass's would serve as a platform to develop on a pan-European basis.

**SB wins approval**  
SmithKline Beecham has received US approval to use Engerix-B, its hepatitis B vaccine, to protect patients suffering from chronic hepatitis C infection. Such patients face an increased risk of acute liver failure if they catch hepatitis B.

**Atkins deal**  
WS Atkins, the business support services group, has signed a 35-year contract to provide new and refurbished hospital services in Manchester. Under the £100 million development scheme, the company will provide services to the South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust. *Tempus, page 28*

**Digital chief**  
British Interactive Broadcasting, the broadcasting group that will subsidise the introduction of digital satellite television, yesterday got its third chief executive in less than a year. The latest man in the post is James Ackerman, managing director of BSkyB's joint venture channels.

# Sales and integration problems hit Danka

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

PROBLEMS with its core US operations and the ongoing integration of the Kodak Eastman photocopying business saw Danka Business Systems report first quarter pre-tax profits down £1.1 million. The figure of £12.7 million on turnover down 9 per cent to £462.9 million was well below City expectations and shares in the troubled photocopying group fell 17 per cent to 129½p. The shares had reached 84½p last year.

The company has issued two profit warnings in six months, including the latest in June. Danka acquired the Eastman Kodak photocopying division for £438 million in 1996. The acquisition was the biggest deal in Danka's 21-year history and doubled the size of the company.

However, the integration of the information systems and the implementation of a new wage structure allied to the defection of several top managers left the company in difficulty. In December last year, when the company reported slow progress on integration, the share price lost half of its value in one day. Dan Doyle, chief executive, said: "The impact of the sales-force integration and changes in the compensation plan has been greater than we initially expected."

That "considerable progress" had been made with the integration of the Kodak business. Warehouses and operating centres in the US have been consolidated and more jobs have been axed as the company moves towards its goal of cutting over 1,000 jobs.

In the past year the group has replaced Peter Meir with Brian Merriman as head of the North American sales division while Mark Wolfinger became president of Latin America, Canada and other speciality markets. "We remain committed to the integration of our businesses and believe the measures we are taking will build the foundations of Danka's future," said Mr Doyle.

During the quarter the company lost turnover due to lower equipment sales in the US. Retail equipment sales were down 22 per cent compared with the same quarter a year ago. The group's international operations overall met expectations except in UK and Australia. In the UK the company lost some business to Japanese manufacturers selling direct to the public.

The group's total debt rose by £20 million to £600 million. Over the past year Danka's share price has underperformed the FTSE All Share Support Services index by 33 per cent. Earnings per share are down to 2.5p from 6.5p.



Michael Bright, left, and Garth Ramsay, chairman, aim to drive down costs with Independent Insurance's UK restructuring

### Vaux shares fall as bid talk ends

By DOMINIC WALSH

THE recent froth in Vaux's share price was blown away yesterday as the Sunderland brewer scotched speculation of a takeover approach from Whitbread.

The shares, riding at an all-time high of 359½p on Wednesday, lost their fizz to close at 318½p last night, wiping more than £60 million from its £528 million market capitalisation. The shares have risen more than £1 since May when the interim results were announced.

The group, which just two months ago rebuffed an unsolicited offer from Stakis as being too low at about £500 million, said: "The board wishes to state that it is not in any discussions which might

lead to an offer for the company or which relate to any of the group's assets."

Industry observers had speculated that Whitbread — like Stakis before it — was eyeing Swallow Hotels, the jewel in the Vaux crown, as a way of bolstering its Marriott Hotels chain in the UK. Greenalls, owner of De Vere Hotels, is also thought to have sized up Swallow. In the case of Whitbread, tentative discussions are thought to have taken place.

Investors must now await the outcome of a strategic review initiated by Martin Grant, the former Allied Domecq executive brought in as new chief executive.

### Business Post slips on departure

SHARES in Business Post, the mail delivery service, fell a further 52½p to 57½p after the company announced its second top-level departure in as many weeks (Matthew Barbour writes). The company, which has seen its shares lose more than a third of their value since Mick Jones, managing director, left two weeks ago, said that Torquill Montague-Johnstone, finance director, is to leave because of "differing approaches" within the board. Non-executive director Peter Kane, who founded the company in 1971 and was chairman for 25 years, is to return as chief executive. His brother, Michael, has also returned.

### Xenova hopes to turn biotech tide

By PAUL DURMAN

XENOVA, the biotechnology company fast running out of money, yesterday said it made substantial progress in the first half, despite £6.5 million of losses and the collapse of its share price from 245p to 71p. Oxford BioMedica also reported "an impressive first half", although it was forced to raise £6 million through a cut-price share issue. Its shares languish at 14p, having floated at 88p in late 1996.

Even ignoring well-publicised casualties British Biotech and Biocompatibles International, the biotech sector presents a sorry spectacle. Cambridge Antibody Technology fell to a new low of 145p yesterday. Oxford Molecular

fell to a new low of 116p. Pepside Therapeutics has crashed from 390p to 116.5p and Therapeutic Antibodies, which reports today, has tumbled to 73.5p, down from 531p.

Alan Kingsman, chief executive of Oxford BioMedica, said: "We need some really substantial good news in the sector to turn it round."

Xenova ended June with cash of only £8.8 million, barely enough to cover six months of research and development. BioMedica, which reported a loss of £1.8 million (£1.3 million), hopes to raise funds from larger companies interested in the modified viruses it has developed to deliver genes into cancer cells.

*Tempus, page 28*

Advertisement for BT (British Telecom) featuring the slogan "It pays to be ahead of your time." The ad includes text about BT's services and a large BT logo at the bottom right.

STOCK MARKET

FRASER NELSON

Fairey soars as heavy dose of profit-taking hits FTSE

FAIREY GROUP was last night under pressure to confirm or deny widespread City talk that it is in takeover talks with Siebe.

Shares in Fairey rose 55p to 339p in heavy trading of 850,000 shares. Shares in Siebe slid 41p to 962p.

The rise is Fairey's sharpest ever and is expected to force it into making a statement before a Stock Exchange investigation is launched.

One City source said: "We have heard that they have received a firm bid approach. Our understanding is that they may have turned it down. Whatever happens, they are going to have to make some sort of statement."

However, other sources closer to the company were pouring cold water on the rumours. If the company makes a statement today, it is expected to deny that it has had a takeover approach from Siebe or anyone else.

However, dealers do not rule out an unannounced bid — perhaps fulfilling City analysts' long-held wish that a large US electronics company, perhaps Emerson Electric, might table an offer. Fairey declined to comment.

Fairey was one of the few companies to avoid another heavy round of profit-taking in the City, which sent the FTSE 100 back into retreat.

It closed just below the 5,400 level, losing 62.7 points to 5,399.5, amid another day of global stock market downturns.

A decline in the Russian stock market, which has the same capitalisation as Tesco, does not normally cause undue consternation in the City.

But in the current environment any drop in any market is an excuse to sell. Equity strategists said the only certainty is continued volatility, but SG Securities is now beginning to think it may be time to start buying again.

Many blue chip shares were dragged down by active short-selling in the futures pit — where bets were being taken on the next merger candidates among oil companies.

Lasmo was the favourite target of the short-sellers, and its shares dropped another 11p to 189p to a fresh 18-month low. Dealers are saying that, even if Lasmo pulls off a merger to the BP-Amoco alliance, there will be little extra value to be had.

BP was up 8p to 802p but



Terry Leahy left analysts with the impression that the poor weather in June and July had badly hurt Tesco

still below the levels seen two weeks ago. Barmah Oil dropped 10p to 101.7p and Shell, the most heavily traded share of the day, slid 2p to 344p.

There was still no respite for British Airways, which fell 19p to a 12-month low of 491p. Sun Life & Provincial became the sharpest FTSE 100 riser, which dealers put down

to a "dead cat bounce". The shares rose 35p to 530p.

Terry Leahy, chief executive of Tesco, has just finished visiting market analysts with Andrew Higginson, his 5-named director. After their briefings, analysts went away with the impression that the dismal June and July weather has hurt Tesco badly.

Merrill Lynch is understood

to have reduced forecasts by £23 million, to £872 million — knocking the shares 5p down to 166p on heavy volume of 30 million shares.

Many analysts think that J Sainsbury, off a penny at 504p, has muscled in. However, others say that Tesco is known for giving cautious briefings before its annual results to avoid disappointment on the day.

Ladbrokes was the sharpest-falling blue chip, off 7.6 per cent to 253p. Its fans say the shares are now a screaming buy, and likely to recover sharply as soon as City sentiment turns.

BTP defied the falling engineering sector, adding 1p amid rumour that it is being sized up by Kohlberg, Kravis Roberts, the US buyout specialist.

KKR has also been linked to Booker, up 21p to 279p on exactly the same kind of rumour. About 620,000 of its shares changed hands.

Over the last few weeks, Danika Business Systems has provided no end of fun for punters. Its shares have regularly fluctuated 10 per cent, as dealers made a play on the recovery of the office equipment supplier.

But it left a nasty surprise in its balance sheet yesterday — debts of £588 million and a cash pile reduced to £1.6 million. Danika shares fell 16p to 132p.

Antonov, the gearbox manufacturer, became one of the best-performing shares yesterday — up 19.5 per cent to 113p. Credit Lyonnais Securities recently agreed to become house broker to the stock, and has set a 300p price target.

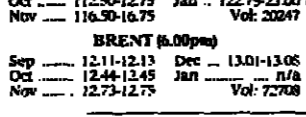
Vaux was the hardest faller in the FTSE 250 after finally issuing a statement denying that it is takeover talks. The shares fell from 359p to 318p.

GILF-EDGED: Bond markets traded nervously amid a worsening financial crisis in Russia and expectations that the Bank of Japan could intervene to support the yen. Treasury 10 per cent dropped 6p to 111p, and Treasury 6 per cent, bringing gilt yields to new lows.

NEW YORK: Worries about the markets in Russia and the yen took their toll in volatile trading. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 53.81 at 4,999.15.

Closing Prices Page 31

THE DIGITAL ABYSS?



FOLLOWERS of London's computer stocks thought they were sure of two things: that the highly rated shares would suffer a minor dip before returning to astronomical growth — and that when the big fall eventually came, they would drop like stones.

Right now, the City is not sure which of the two phenomena it is experiencing in the City.

When this column looked at the FTSE Information Technology sector last week, it had just dipped 5 per cent from its peak. Now, it is 15 per cent below

its peak — and falling far faster than any other index in the market.

So could this be the big one? Scenarios say that the IT stocks became too highly valued because there were not enough sellers to test a true market value. Now, the sellers are out in force. Around 800,000 Sema shares normally change hands each day. Yesterday it was 2.91 million.

Still, the sector has only fallen to where it was two months ago and, crucially, there has been no widespread downgrading of profit forecasts.

But it left a nasty surprise in its balance sheet yesterday — debts of £588 million and a cash pile reduced to £1.6 million. Danika shares fell 16p to 132p.

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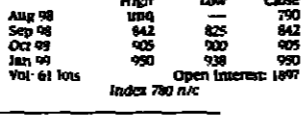
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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 4999.15 (-53.81) S&P Composite 1078.94 (-5.28)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 15382.02 (-10.05) Hong Kong: Hang Seng 6660.42 (-199.08)

Amsterdam: AEX Index 1145.58 (-3.75) Sydney: NO 2541.2 (-4.8)

Frankfurt: DAX 5356.23 (-46.14) Singapore: Straits 960.74 (-30.03)

Brussels: BEL20 3401.15 (-4.59) Paris: CAC-40 3951.69 (-6.99)

Zurich: SKA Gen 1515.30 (-22.60) London: FTSE 100 5399.5 (-62.7) FTSE 250 5154.0 (-29.7)

FTSE 350 2608.7 (-30.3) FTSE Europe 100 2678.9 (-21.68) FTSE All-Share 2530.67 (-29.48)

FTSE Non Financials 2613.86 (-22.88) FTSE Financials 2454.4 (-4.72) FTSE Core Stocks 1057.9 (-3.9)

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TEMPUS Foreign to the City

THE attraction of big, actively managed general investment trusts has largely been lost on institutional investors. The rise of index tracking, and the greater ease with which large pension and insurance fund investors can manage their own broadly based portfolios, has made life hard for the likes of Foreign & Colonial, which reported interim results yesterday.

The effect has been to undermine the share price of the grand old-timers, and discounts to net asset value have widened. Meanwhile performance has been poor. Despite the brickbats, Foreign & Colonial has striven to combat its difficulties. It has made every effort to replace its dwindling institutional clientele with private investors, printing demand for its shares with regular savings schemes and attempts to get people to

use the trust for personal pension scheme investment. Yesterday it announced plans to buy back shares, again in the hope of narrowing supply and reducing the net asset value discount. Yet just as previous efforts to achieve this goal have met with only limited success, so this play looks risky. The F&C share price fell yesterday and the discount remains stubbornly wide.

Foreign & Colonial has a role as a vehicle for relatively unsophisticated small investors to get a broadly based exposure to the world's major stock markets, with a bit of currency hedging thrown in. They can be comforted by the security of an established name, and it also suits those who worry that index tracking represents too much of a strait-jacket. But investment performance is unlikely to be premier league.

Unfortunately for shareholders, until the City recognises that this company is performing well in difficult circumstances, the shares will mark time, making them a punt for patient investors only.

writing risk. Consolidation in the sector means brokers now have fewer insurance companies with whom they can deal, and Independent should benefit from this, having established itself as a niche player. The composites are also considerably more bearish about current trading. Michael Bright, Independent's chief executive,

was noticeably peeved yesterday to find analysts downbeat about the firm's prospects.

Formerly far too much had to be taken on trust. Flextech, which grew out of an oil service business, was losing-making and its big idea — to supply broadcasters with programmes for commodity consumption — unproven.

Now, while the supply of commodity TV may not be the most glamorous business to be in, it is plain to see that there is a growing demand. Concerns remain about Flextech having to unbundle programme packages, but the alliances it has forged

with the BBC and BSkyB suggest that the company will progress profitably whatever. In addition, its operational gearing means that once revenues start flowing they could flow quickly. Flextech's programming may not leave it in the running for any awards, either, but the Jerry Springer Show is one example of how it can hit upon money-spinners from unlikely sources.

Flextech is not for those who like to sleep soundly, but there is now room to suggest that the value of the shares has a basis in reality.

ing National Health Service Trusts entering into contracts — business for the civil engineering consultancy has soared.

So have the shares. Although the rise might not be as dramatic as some others exposed to New Labour's largesse — such as Capita or Sema — Atkins investors have doubled their money over the past year.

Will this continue? On yesterday's evidence, as Atkins revealed its share of a £100 million PFI contract in South Manchester, yes. As the Government pours billions into the health and education sector, this will feed through into other capital projects. And as PFI is a neat way of spreading the cost of these projects, more contracts will be signed and there will be more work for Atkins.

The shares might seem highly rated at the moment, but they have to be a good medium-term bet. Buy.

Edited by Robert Cole

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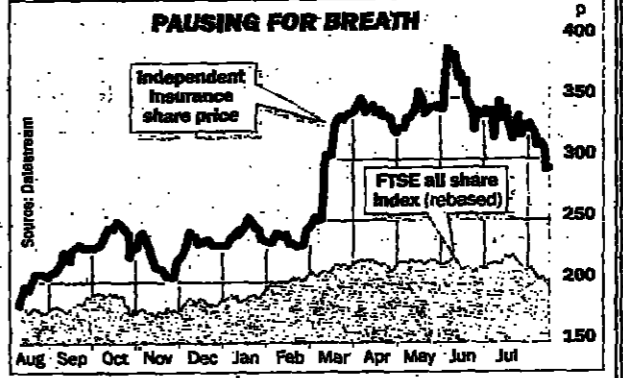
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COMMODITIES

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

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DOLLAR RATE

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Standards ca... Devalua... lesser o... Free lunch

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# Standards called to account over Cendant

Even by the roller-coaster standards of Wall Street where fortunes are won and lost at the push of a button, the case of Cendant — the new owners of the RAC and National Car Parks — and its \$20 billion (£12 billion) market collapse is an unusual one.

US investors and regulators have few illusions about the propensity of some recently made millionaires. Insider trading is said to be rife again. In a generally rising market crooked gains are easily disguised.

But straightforward fraud is a different matter. Until Cendant's spectacular implosion in April, investors believed large-scale fraud could happen at foreign companies, remember BCCI. But America had the toughest accounting standards in the world. No other government forced its businesses into such exhaustive financial stripteases.

Evidence uncovered by Arthur Andersen at CUC, the company merged with HFS to form

**Oliver August reports from New York on what has become an expensive lesson in corporate governance**

Cendant last year, suggests that 61 per cent of net income was simply made up. Managers and accountants literally revised revenues up and losses down at the stroke of a pen. They would do so shifting hundreds of thousands of dollars at a time. Half of CUC's division controllers are said to have done so. So much for US accounting standards.

The Cendant saga is not only a financial disaster for investors but also an indication of how easy it is to cheat even in America. When the books were changed, CUC would simply call the fraudulent adjustments "consolidation entries". Ernst & Young, its auditors, did not publicly object. Nor did the accountants openly

question \$200 million in accounting errors such as delaying insurance claims.

A separate matter raised in the report that is likely to anger investors even more is the millions of dollars of unexplained but not necessarily fraudulent expense claims by Walter Forbes, the chief executive.

Cynics have remarked that Mr Forbes couldn't possibly have known his employees were cooking the books — he was too busy spending cash advances of \$50,000, or \$4,000 a week. For good measure, HFS also found \$100,000 of undocumented American Express card charges and \$300,000 for air travel taken by Mr Forbes. Adding insult to injury, a note on

a \$996,000 expense report suggested charging the money as expenses from the CUC-HFS merger.

Following the discovery of these irregularities, a corporate civil war has raged at the merged group over recent months. In addition to the 200 accountants already digging dirt, CUC and HFS executives have hired personal lawyers and dozens of executives just below board level signed a letter demanding Mr Forbes's resignation. He was forced out two weeks ago. But not without draining more money out of the company. He will receive a "golden noose" worth more than \$45 million.

But maybe the most appalling detail of the whole sordid saga is what CUC's auditors have to say about it. Do Ernst & Young honestly believe that "we, too, are the victims of a massive intentional collusive fraud"? Accounting standards are only ever as tough as the accountants who are enforcing them.



Rebecca Mark masterminded Enron's Teesside deal

## Enron leaves its Mark on utility scene

American ownership of British utility companies has become an issue once more with the decision of Enron to put London Electricity up for sale. The brevity of Enron's dalliance with London — which it bought less than two years ago — has resurrected the concern about "absentee landlords".

Ms Mark, who has homes in Houston and New York, twin 13-year-old sons and an MBA from Harvard, masterminded the Teesside deal, taking a flat in Mayfair as it evolved.

The Missouri-born executive is one of several particularly prominent American women who are helping to shape international energy groups, including Karen de Segundo at Shell and Rebecca Macdonald at Amoco. Ms Mark has board-level posts at both Yale and Harvard business schools.

Despite the ubiquity of US companies in the UK utility sector, Ms Mark maintains that there is no ex-pat scene for the US "landlords" in London.

Because Enron's international activities can spread her thinly across the globe — the group has a major power project in India, for instance — there has been no need to keep the Mayfair base in London.

A pied-à-terre might become necessary again after the Wessex deal, which is awaiting regulatory approval. Enron is itself committed to a new home in London, offices that are still being built in Victoria. They were needed as the staffing grew from 20 at the beginning of the decade to 600 now. The wandering MPs and the river-side location, however, will be missed.

Enron now reckons it has invested more than £2 billion in the UK. However, its experience here has not been trouble-free. The group got into a terrible tangle on North Sea gas contract. It committed to buy the great bulk of the output from J Block. Prices fell and it had to swallow a \$675 million restructuring charge in its 1997 accounts.

As the top international executive at a US group that is in the process of increasing its exposure to UK utilities, this is an anxiety Rebecca Mark is keen to allay.

Ms Mark heads the overseas arm of Enron, the US energy and utilities group, which spans oil and gas exploration and wholesale energy trading and had revenues of more than \$20 billion (£12 billion) in 1997.

Enron last month made an agreed £1.36 billion cash bid for Wessex Water, its first foray into the water business. Ms Mark is quick to point out, however, that it is not the Texan group's first foray into Britain. Enron has had an office in London for most of the 1990s, the swish sort of HQ on the Embankment in Westminster that UK industry is no longer able to afford.

It is an enviable position, just above the television studios where MPs are interviewed — handy if you want to collar a few members to talk about inward investment or energy policy.

Enron's first big deal here was the establishment of a 1,875 megawatt gas-fired power station on Teesside, which went into commercial operation in 1993. Oddly, for an inward investment deal in the North East, the plant was not sweetened by a public grant and this has also been the case with subsequent projects.

Enron now reckons it has invested more than £2 billion in the UK.

ADAM JONES

# Devaluation looms large as lesser of two Russian evils

**Janet Bush sees little help for Moscow in the IMF's spend and squeeze formula**

Seasoned observers of the tables of the Casino of the Global Economy always knew behind their poker faces that the euphoria that greeted last month's \$22.6 billion International Monetary Fund support package for Russia would not last long.

Less than a month later, the Russian stock market is in crisis, talk has resurfaced, to be fiercely denied by the authorities in Moscow, that a devaluation of the rouble is inevitable and George Soros, currency speculator and Eastern Europe's most cherished financial philanthropist, is urging the creation of a Group of Seven-backed \$50 billion dollar currency board to stabilise and protect the Russian exchange rate.

Mr Soros, writing yesterday to *The Financial Times*, said that the "melt-down in Russian financial markets has reached the terminal phase". He laid the blame at the door of the IMF.

"The IMF programme imposes tight monetary and fiscal policy, the banking crisis requires the injection of liquidity. The two requirements cannot be reconciled with further international assistance."

Mr Soros suggested that, rather than the current, gradually depreciating peg of the rouble against the dollar, the best solution to the current crisis would be to introduce a currency board after a "modest devaluation of 15 to 25 per cent".

This suggestion was immediately rejected by Denis Kiselyov, Deputy Chairman of Russia's central bank. "A one-off devaluation of 15 to 25 per cent would not solve a single one of the problems facing the Russian Government," he said.

Russian officials were bound to respond to Mr Soros's suggestion thus. Relative rouble stability has helped Russia to achieve a dramatic reduction in inflation to just over 4 per cent, compared with inflation of more than 1,000 per cent after the collapse of

communism in 1991. In what has been a tortuous transition to market economics, which has still left the Government unable to pay millions of Russian workers their wages, this has been a singular achievement that the authorities do not want to compromise.

However, Mr Soros's ideas cannot easily be dismissed. Russia faces some tough choices if it emerges from the crisis of confidence that, more than contagion effects from Asia, is due to the collapse in the price of crude oil which, with gas, accounts for more than 50 per cent of its exports.

The current emphasis of IMF policy-makers, the US Treasury and other members of the G7 is on efforts to bolster tax collection to plug Russia's deteriorating financial position and enable the authorities

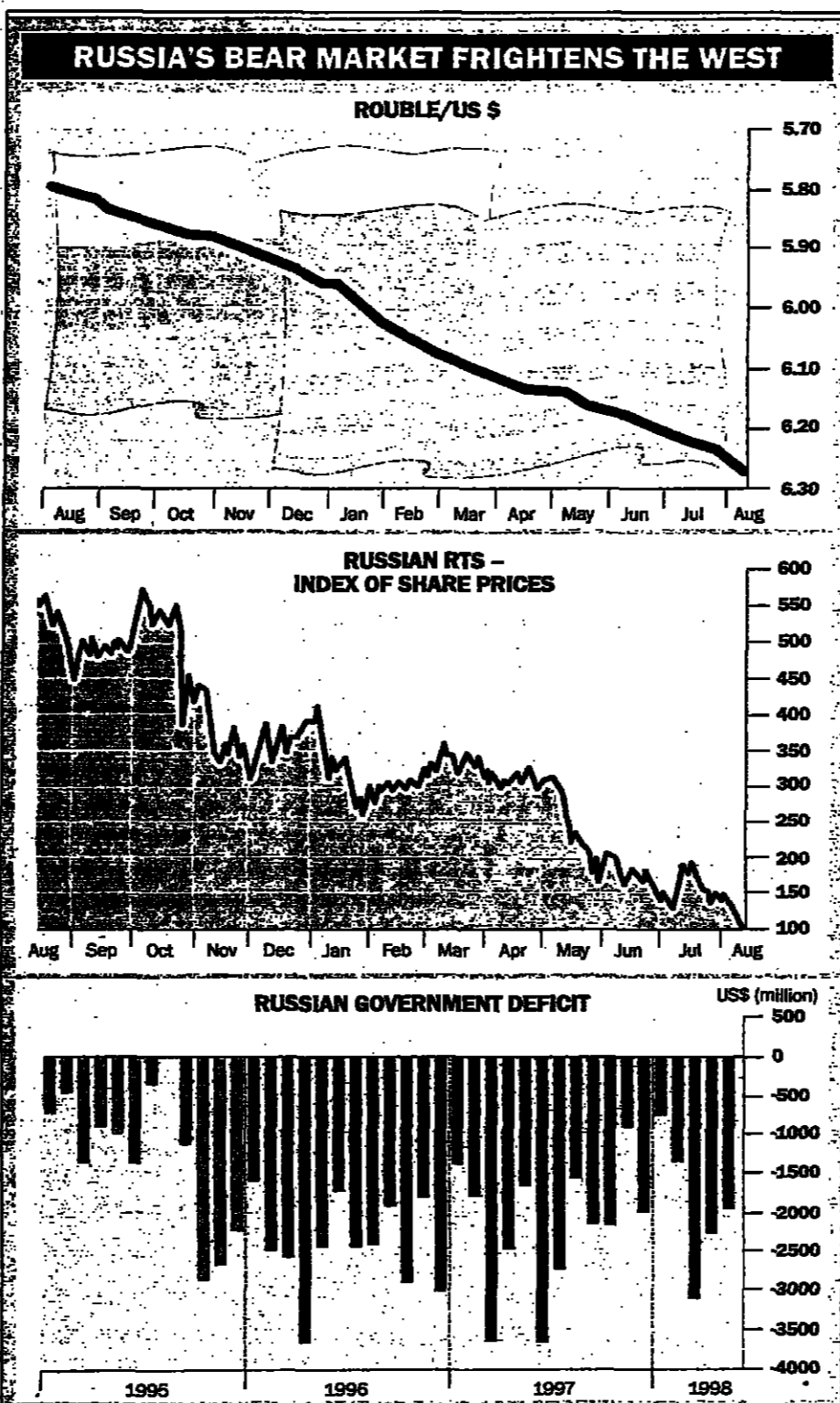
to pay out wages. However, this is a long-term effort and, with the Duma, Russia's Communist-dominated Parliament, already proving intransigent, even early progress in this respect is being stunted.

Structural reforms, always urged very well but they are not the answer to short-term crisis.

Broadly, Russia faces two very difficult choices if it is to plug the current account black hole left by the slump in world oil prices and to restore its public finances to health. It could impose a severe fiscal squeeze on an already mutinous population or it could devalue the rouble.

Some observers believe that, despite the absolutist tone of current rhetoric on maintaining the rouble peg with the dollar, opinion is shifting towards the latter.

The one serious bar to devaluation is the huge forward currency exposure of Russian banks to the rouble. If the rouble were to be devalued now, these banks would be destroyed, creating an even more terminal crisis in confidence. However, a large proportion of these forward contracts will expire by October and November. Unless the IMF and America, its largest shareholder, were to successfully veto such



a move, a devaluation towards the end of the year might be deemed politically preferable to another austerity package.

Although even talking about the relative desirability of a devaluation is taboo in current, highly unstable conditions, some economists argue that a bold devaluation would go down far better with Russians than another swinging

fiscal squeeze — perhaps on consumption — in an economy whose gross domestic product has already contracted by half over less than a decade.

Whatever Russia eventually decides to do, without a miraculous recovery in oil prices or something else to persuade foreigners to go on financing its budget deficit, it will need considerable additional funds

from the IMF and the G7.

Kasper Bartholdy, fixed income strategist at Credit Suisse First Boston, believes an additional \$15 billion is probably a minimum and that the \$50 billion quoted by Mr Soros as the necessary backing for a currency board is certainly not outrageous.

There seems little doubt that the IMF and the G7 are will-

ing to do what it takes to bail Russia out of its current difficulties. If South Korea was too strategically important to be allowed to fail, then how much more crucial is the relative political stability and the transition to a market economy in Russia which is, let it not be forgotten, a nuclear power.

The trouble is the logical inconsistency between injecting billions of dollars of liquidity into Russia and then squeezing it again through high interest rates, the identical prescription that the IMF always resorts to in such situations.

Interest rates in Russia have soared to 150 per cent, instant death to a country whose banking sector is in crisis. Mr Bartholdy of CSFB draws a comparison with Bulgaria which, faced with a far worse economic crisis than Russia, including hyperinflation, adopted a currency board last year. It now has interest rates of around 10 per cent and a stable currency.

A currency board may be workable, even in Russia. It would have to be set up, as Mr Soros suggests, after a large devaluation, and it would have to be backed by a great deal of money to give it credibility. Interest rates would probably have to be kept very high at first but they are painfully high already. Another enormous challenge is setting up a currency board in crisis conditions. It would look suspiciously like an easy target to speculators (presumably not including Mr Soros's Quantum Fund).

The alternative is more radical still. Let the rouble float freely but implement some disincentives against foreign banks that might have fun speculating. Tell them that, if the rouble were to fall 20 per cent, Russia would declare a moratorium on all debts. A further 10 per cent down and Russia would revoke 20 per cent of debts. A further 10 per cent ... and so on.

Such an incentive-based approach would be more effective than the IMF's failed policy of squeezing the liquidity lifeblood out of economies in crisis and then having to spend billions sorting out its own mess to little effect.

Surprisingly, this might prove politically popular. The value of the rouble in their pockets may decline but at least Russians would welcome an end to its Government's passive acceptance of Western billions in an insupportable price.

## Free lunch

AMID all the hype surrounding the imminent City debut of Sir Terence Conran — the Coq d'Argent opens at No 1 Foultry on Monday — another gastronomic project has been rather overlooked.

Rather than attending yesterday's Coq d'Argent press lunch (actually, I wasn't invited), I ate just around the corner at Lombard Street — an address which doubles as the name of a new restaurant set up by Soren Jensen, the London-based Dane, who once backed Oliver Peyton of Atlantic Bar & Grill fame. (Peyton, as readers of this column will know, is planning

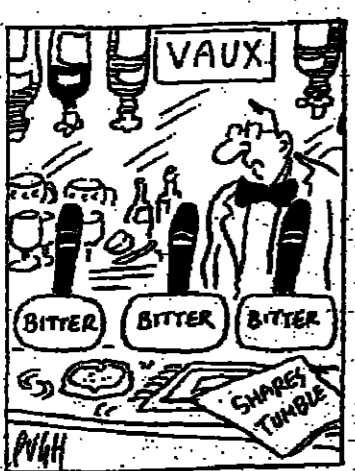
his own venture in Lothbury.) Jensen, who has spent the past ten years with Goldman Sachs and UBS, has now quit the world of finance to be a full-time restaurateur in partnership with Herbert Berger, who won a Michelin star at the Café Royal.

Yesterday was supposed to be the first day of trading for Lombard Street in its splendid neo-classical former banking hall, but a glitch with the licence meant lunch was free. My thanks, therefore, to Messrs Jensen and Berger for a first-class meal.



last week. Back home, at the end of a long day, Bullock tripped over, crashed through a plate-glass cabinet and knocked himself out. When he came round, he crawled into bed where he remained until his girlfriend arrived to find a trail of blood. As she attempted to manoeuvre him out of the house to get him to hospital, several objects were knocked over and a lamp broken. When he returned from hospital, he tried to repair the lamp only to electrocute himself. Thankfully, he is now fully recovered — apart from a rather red face.

THANKS are also owed to the Bank of International Settlements, headquartered in Switzerland, for its illuminating press release on what central banks have been doing to reduce the risks of foreign exchange settlement. The release, received yesterday, is dated July 13. And I thought timeliness was a vital aspect of international money markets. Then again, it has taken Swiss banks 50 years to admit that they are sitting on \$5 billion of Holocaust victims' assets.



**Morning after**  
NIGEL BULLOCK, a City salesman at Rabobank, is feeling rather bruised following a corporate beano

**Job prospects?**  
IT IS good to see that the *Financial Times* remains as scrupulously impartial as ever. Yesterday it carried a

quarter-page job advertisement from Virgin Entertainment Group while running a two-page analysis of the financial viability of Richard Branson's empire.

According to the paper, an examination of the accounts of the disparate businesses that make up the Virgin Group shows that it has spent more than it has earned in the past two years at a time when its cash-generating businesses have enjoyed favourable trading conditions.

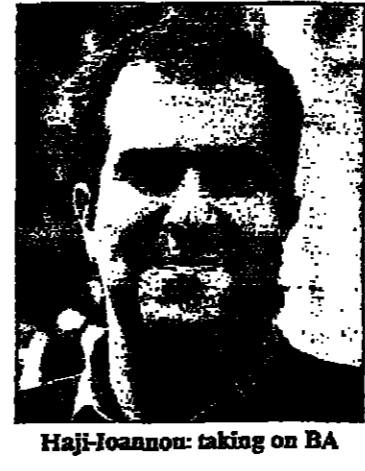
Will Whitehorn, Branson's combative but always personable PR man, claims that the accounts used do not reflect what is happening in Virgin today, and that it will generate cash of £150 million this year. So will Virgin be reviewing its advertising spend with the FT? "Absolutely not," he says. "We still love them dearly."

**Jet fighter**  
STELIOS HAJI-IOANNOU is a charming man, but he is a tiger when angry. British Airways is feeling the full force of his wrath after launching its cheap-and-cheerful Go service from London to Edinburgh — a direct rival to EasyJet's service from Luton.

He got wind of the plan at 1pm on Wednesday, while on a flight from Nice, and immediately booked a full-page advert in *The Scotsman*. At 2pm he got to work on the EasyJet computers and by 4pm he had filed the copy. The result, in yesterday's paper, is a rather rambling attack on "the moth-

er of all fare wars" under a graphic portraying BA as a huge tank and EasyJet as a guerrilla fighter armed with an assault rifle. It looks cheap and tacky but is oddly effective. A bit like EasyJet.

NEW water companies are gushing forth all over the country. Nineteen, in fact, calling themselves Derby Water, Gloucester Water, Cardiff Water, etc. None reside in the eponymous towns, they are all registered in Birmingham — at the HQ of Severn Trent Water. It seems the utility is trying to get ahead of its competitors with trustworthy regional names in the unlikely event that competition in the sector should materialise.



Haji-Ioannou: taking on BA

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION

Table of unit trust prices for various categories including ASSET MANAGEMENT, EQUITY, and FIXED INCOME. Columns include fund name, price, and change.

Table of unit trust prices for various categories including EQUITY, FIXED INCOME, and SPECIALIST. Columns include fund name, price, and change.

Table of unit trust prices for various categories including SPECIALIST, INTERNATIONAL, and OTHER. Columns include fund name, price, and change.

Advertisement for Planet Microsoft featuring the text: 'Products and services sell worldwide, 24 hours a day on the Internet. COMPAG Planet Microsoft. Visit our Advanced Technology Demonstration Centres in Bishopsgate, London & Central Leeds. Freephone: 0500 550 650. Internet Solutions for Business from the UK's Largest Independent Service Provider.'

# Shares lower at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Alcoholic Beverages					
Diageo	120.00	+0.8	18.5	1.50	1.25%
Heineken	115.00	+0.5	15.2	1.20	1.05%
Guinness	110.00	+0.2	14.8	1.10	0.98%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Banks					
Barclays	125.00	-0.5	12.5	1.50	1.20%
HSBC	120.00	-0.2	11.8	1.40	1.17%
First Direct	115.00	+0.1	11.2	1.30	1.13%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Breweries, Pubs & Rest					
Asahi	110.00	+0.3	13.5	1.20	1.09%
Beck's	105.00	+0.1	13.0	1.10	1.05%
Carlsberg	100.00	+0.2	12.5	1.00	1.00%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Building Materials					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Chemicals					
Imperial Chemical	120.00	+0.5	16.5	1.50	1.25%
Shell Chemical	115.00	+0.2	16.0	1.40	1.22%
British Chemical	110.00	+0.1	15.5	1.30	1.18%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Construction					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Distributors					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Engineering Vehicles					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Diversified Industrials					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Food Manufacturers					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Healthcare					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Household Goods & Text					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Engineering					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Insurance					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Investment Trusts					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Media					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Pharmaceuticals					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Printing & Paper					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Mining					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Property					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Leisure & Hotels					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Oil & Gas					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
British Funds					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Water					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Other Financial					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Support Services					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Retailers - Food					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Retailers - General					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Alternative Inv Market					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Shorts (under 5 years)					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Longs (over 15 years)					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Undated					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

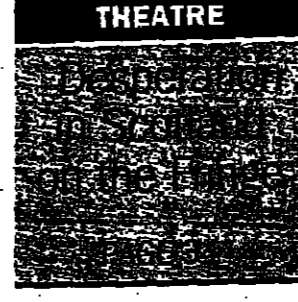
Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Index-linked on projected inflation					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%
Woolston	110.00	-0.2	13.8	1.20	1.09%
Woolston	105.00	+0.1	13.4	1.10	1.05%

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	Dividend	Yield
Mediums (5 to 15 years)					
Woolston	115.00	-0.1	14.2	1.30	1.13%



POP  
Clever and coy tunes from the audience  
PAGE 33

# THE TIMES ARTS



**T**omorrow there can only be one place for connoisseurs of Bizarre Occasions to gather, and that is the Albert Hall. The largest ensemble ever assembled for a Prom concert — more than a thousand voices — will roar its merry way through Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*. Its massed ranks will range from piping trebles to stupendously bosomed contraltos, and from tombstone-toned basses to pocket-Pavarotti. Schoolchildren will be taking part, but also choral veterans such as Dorothy Whitemore from Malvern, who sang in the British premiere of *Carmina Burana* in 1949 and will be using the same copy tomorrow, "if I can find it in the loft".

seven-hour celebration of the British choral tradition. It will showcase everything from barbershop crooning to an Oxbridge chapel choir, and from brilliant youth ensembles singing brand new music to the grand and venerable Huddersfield Choral Society thundering through Parry and Elgar. What's pleasing about the event is that it flouts conventional wisdom. Our choral tradition has been written off more times than a rusty Ford Cortina. Changes in the teaching curriculum are said to have eliminated classroom and assembly singing in most schools. Trendy vicars are reported to be abolishing church choirs in favour of pallid choruses for tambourines and three-chord guitarists. Bankrupt cathedrals are regularly remoured to be cutting back on paid adult choristers. And it is often claimed that, as young people

drift from the former industrial heartlands of South Wales or the North in search of work, the illustrious choral societies and male-voice choirs of those regions are left perilously short of new blood. There is some truth in this, and certainly no room for complacency. But the greater and rather miraculous truth is that choirs continue to flourish across the realm. Indeed, I think the tradition is healthier than in its supposed Fifties heyday. The repertoire is wider; the performers more open-minded; standards higher. For proof of that, check out the annual Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition, if you will pardon the pun. And splendid variety has been introduced in recent years, not only by the arrival of top-quality gospel choirs such as the London Adventist Choral, but also by those ferociously well-drilled barbershop



**WEEK IN THE ARTS**  
RICHARD MORRISON

prospered in Nazi Germany. Couldn't the resources of the BBC have stretched to a mega-performance of something more uplifting? I can't help thinking back to the Great Handel Festival of 1883 (I'm a bit older than I look in my mugshot, girls). In the Crystal Palace that year a choir of 4,000 and an orchestra of 500 performed *Messiah* to an audience of 87,000. Why not mark the millennium by recreating that ear-popping event? The Albert Hall would be much too small, of course... but there is a large public building going up in Greenwich, I understand, and nobody yet seems to have thought of anything better to put in it.

Returning to her hotel room after further hospital treatment, the singer then "apparently sneezed" the spokeswoman continued. This "caused her eyeball temporarily to leave its socket". At this point Ms Nutter was said to have called it a day, and returned to her native Leeds for rest and recuperation. Across the continent, class warriors and rock fans sent condolences to their feisty heroine. Alas, last week's *NME* carried a sad little correction. "Apparently the story about Alice Nutter being injured was actually made up by the band," the magazine declared, a little sheepishly. What, even that wonderful bit about the eyeball temporarily leaving its socket? John Prescott will be disappointed. Still, as Chumbawamba's greatest (and indeed only) hit puts it: "I get knocked down. But I get up again. You're never going to keep me down." I don't know what success Chumbawamba are having in the class war, but they certainly add greatly to the gaiety of the nation. We need more Nutters.

groups — startling though the sight of 60 grown men leaping around in perfect synchronisation may be to the unwary onlooker. My only regret is that tomorrow's jamboree climaxes with a piece by such a dubious figure as Carl Orff: a man who worked and

## The sing's the thing at the Albert Hall

**L**ast week I was offered a "friendly warning" in these pages by *The Times* critic Benedict Nightingale, headlined "Stop making a pantomime of Shakespeare". I met Nightingale the following morning on Radio 4's *Today* programme and had an enlightening conversation as we rode home. I write this article on his recommendation that I clear up a few misconceptions about what we are all doing at Shakespeare's Globe.

# Meet the real Shakespeare

**THEATRE:** Pantomime at the Globe? That's not what we're all about, argues artistic director Mark Rylance

ingly sought by Sam Wanamaker in the building should extend to the bond between audience and actors (what would be the point if it didn't?), and claims that I ask the audience to pretend they are Elizabethans. How ridiculous. On the contrary, I make a point in our programmes of asking them to bring only themselves and measure the play's verity on the scale of their own lives. For if Shakespeare holds a mirror up to nature, how can our theatrical mirror contain anything without our audience's generous willingness to reveal

their real lives within our wooden frame? What I encourage is the following: that my fellow actors play and sometimes talk directly with the audience, rather than to or at them. *With* implies listening to the audience, which I also encourage, and together as artists we are constantly trying to encourage responses that are involved in the story and let pass those that are self-promoting or undermining of the story. Last year as Henry V, I was able to play with the audience as if they were my soldiers in

France. They certainly never cheered the killing of the prisoners, as *Nightingale* asserts. Yes, the French nobility were booed for their vanity and self-aggrandisement which cost them the battle; however, French women were not booed but cheered when they stopped Henry in his tracks. *Nightingale* chooses a number of examples from this year's repertoire to criticise the audience's reactions, so I attended *As You Like It* and listened carefully during *Merchant of Venice* last weekend. He says that in *As You Like It*

apples are "thrown back and forth". What I witnessed was one apple thrown high into the air by the superb John McEnery when as Jacques he observes that "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players". The apple was thrown by a player and caught by a member of the audience, a simple gesture beautifully illustrating the illusionary nature of the division between actor and audience, which Jacques's lines and character suggest, and which this production is actively exploring by treating the entire Globe as the Forest or Court. For the actor to be at one with the audience in this way encourages a kind of mass complicity in the suspension of disbelief. Engaging daily in this experiment, as my fellow actors and musicians are, we may have more opportunity to observe the incredible subtlety of the new and dynamic relationship the Globe affords the playgoer — 700 of them for a mere £3. *Nightingale* is concerned about hissing and booing. So are we. Some members of our audience may arrive completely misled by inaccurate press material telling them that it is a requirement for them to boo and hiss, but the majority willingly exchange the "outside" world for that within the Globe, to become genuine participants in storytelling. Often they wish to make it known when they are displeased with a character's actions.



Mark Rylance in *The Honest Whore*: "Our audiences are partners with us in an experiment"

**M**ost disconcertingly, *Nightingale* makes four or five criticisms of my company encouraging coarseness in *The Merchant of Venice*, ending with the sentence: "Meanwhile Magni (Marcello Magni) continues to run amok in *The Merchant*, doing horse impressions, miming death throes, and I don't know what." Well, *Nightingale* doesn't know what, because to my amazement I discovered he hadn't seen the production, but was just repeating opinions of other critics. Magni brings a considerable training in the art of Commedia to his role as the clown Launcelot Gobbo, and at that moment is doing exactly what the text suggests, which is to play tricks on his near-blind father. The play is a comedy, and Magni's role is to play the clown. I really was not convinced last weekend that this action hindered or coarsened the audience's judgment of the situation in which Shylock finds himself. They do not boo him when he enters, or at any other point, other than when he turns down the offer of thrice the money which he has loaned to Antonio, and by so doing it becomes apparent

that in his anguish he intends to murder Antonio. These are not anti-Semitic boos but disapproval of a character's murderous intent. The ominous talk among several of "us", as *Nightingale* reports his sources, in which he asserts that I am encouraging the coarsening of Shakespeare, is ill-informed. What I encourage at the Globe is careful research into original playing practices, daily class in movement, speech and verse-speaking during the rehearsal period for the actors, live music which becomes a powerful tool in the absence of lighting and sets, and beautiful, hand-crafted Elizabethan clothing.

Our director of education, Patrick Spottiswoode, runs our education department which works with local, national and international schools and educational bodies, and we have a prestigious research programme headed by Professor Andrew Gurr. We are also offering the chance to hear plays by Shakespeare's contemporaries that have not been performed for 400 years

and we are celebrating those productions in our amphitheatre that now holds 1,600 people. Last year *Middleton* was as popular as Shakespeare. Our audiences know that we are an unsubsidised theatre, that within it their voice is liberated and powerful, that their participation in coming to "hear a play" is an active one. They are coming in droves. And they are partners with us in an experiment that for many actors and audiences is changing the way they want to meet their Shakespeare.

**J**oe Orton's comedies, in fact Orton himself, holds a special place in the hearts of critics, because he cooked a snook at the Lord Chamberlain and turned bad taste into a fashionable theatrical commodity in the 1960s. How quaint his antics seem in the sheep-pickling, urine-soaked, serial-killing 1990s. When *Loot* first hit provincial stages, it was the use of a corpse as a comic prop that shocked the delicate feelings of tax-paying theatregoers. Now you would need the entire contents of the national grid to affect a similar result on a blue-rinsed audience in Tunbridge Wells. Bigger that, you can hear the Chichester Festival producers mumbling. Let's play it for the old-fashioned piece of farce it indubitably is. And so they do, with results that can be neatly filed into an awful, awkward first half and a wonderfully funny, short second half. The only guiding principle of David Grindley's production is to turn it into one giant sketch. Stuart Wood's design looks like a colourless doodle that has just been peeled from the page. And the actors are so insistently intent on sending up their own cartoon caricatures that they sound more Brechtian than Brecht.

## Pandering to the farcical

What saves the show is Orton's truly preposterous plot, and some of the most evil one-liners about Catholicism and police corruption in the English satirical canon. While the freshly embalmed body of McLeavy's wife lies in a coffin in the sitting room, his son Hal (Gary Whitaker) and his suspiciously close friend Dennis (Alex Comran) swap the body for bank loot they have stolen and stashed in a locked cupboard. What they haven't gambled on is Tracy-Ann Oberman's Irish nurse. Or her seventh husband and

dressed up like a sunny seaside postcard, she casts in on the boys' predicament when Inspector Truscott of the Yard arrives pretending to be from the Metropolitan Water Board. "My deception was never intended to deceive you," bellows Truscott with the delicious obtuseness of an Open University maths professor. If Fred Ridgeway's fabulously corrupt Truscott supplies the play-saving performance (as deranged and commanding as Basil Fawlty), he is badly let down by his peers. The actors' banana skin accents, and the 100mph delivery, make it sound as if no one could possibly take Orton's jokes seriously. The whole stinging point of Orton is that his fear of being taken seriously makes you take his fears very seriously indeed. Comic amends are made in the second half as Truscott starts fingering collars. But the feeling of being cheated by the farcical confection Orton so determinedly sent up can't be flushed out of the system by merely pandering to it. Grindley and his Chichester Festival stooges owe us this one. At least they've got time enough now to start delivering.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

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Big hug  
D  
Snap  
son  
Talking 'bou



# Big hugs and respect to our peers

Good news for the Verve and Oasis: Embrace aren't out to get you any more. Stephen Dalton reports

When Richard McNamee married his childhood sweetheart in Huddersfield three weeks ago, much more than a wedding was being celebrated. Because Richard plays guitar with Embrace, Britain's fastest rising rock band, whose debut album *The Good Will Out* topped the charts on the day of its June release. The 25-year-old guitarist's best man was his big brother Danny, 21, who also happens to be Embrace's singer. The quartet, completed by bass player Steve Firth and drummer Mike Henson, even played a smattering of Elvis Presley classics to get the party swinging.

'There's enough room in the charts for three great bands'

Together, since 1992, Embrace's apparent overnight success actually took years of painstaking preparation. Like most bands of their generation, their first incarnation was an amateurish and derivative distillation of such influences as the Smiths and Stone Roses. But, unlike most bands, they were disciplined and ambitious enough to recognise that merely being local heroes was not enough. Hence their decision, in 1993, to shun public appearances and concentrate on honing their craft. Danny abandoned his psychology degree course in Manchester and applied himself to songwriting full-time. "We just hid away for two years," says Henson, "writing songs in my bedroom. Two years of sitting and playing and writing songs, five nights a week and weekends."

Embrace did not grow up in public, and Richard attributes the band's latterday success to their long apprenticeship in the wilderness. "If we'd been signed three or four years earlier we'd probably have gone down the pan, because we just weren't good enough," he admits. Danny emerged from self-imposed exile with severe timidity in one ear, but a fully realised blueprint for the Embrace sound: crafted, feline ballads with achingly tender choirboy vocals which are slowly engulfed by booming guitars and, sometimes, entire orchestras. The band then sent 30 tapes to management companies, and received 25 positive replies. They eventually signed to Big Life management and the Virgin-linked record label Hut, coincidentally both also home to the Verve, although Danny is at pains to stress that Big Life engaged his "first first."

This is clearly a sensitive subject, especially since some critics have dismissed Embrace as lazava Verve copyists. "I know there is this idea that we're some kind of Oasis-meets-Verve amalgam," Danny sighs. "Like we're a manager's dream, and we've been groomed to look like lads from up North. I find that incredibly cynical. It's more a reflection on London journalists than it is on me. But at the end of the day, I'm playing to a sold-out Brixton Academy in a few weeks and they're not."

It is not so much the sound but the timing of Embrace's album which has fuelled this cynicism. With Oasis on holiday and the Verve currently in disarray following the sudden departure of guitarist Nick McCabe, some pundits have suggested that Embrace are essentially understudies filling a gap in the market. Danny, of course, rejects this view. "If we had been less precious and more career-minded, we would have released our album before both of their albums came out last year," he says. "We would have done a lot better, because then Oasis and the Verve would have been seen as post-Embrace. But it's alright, there's enough room in the charts for three great bands."

Danny is treading carefully these days, softening the contentious tone of previous interviews. He even resorted to phoning Verve singer Richard Ashcroft recently to smooth-



"We're just normal people who write good songs," Embrace say. This is not, however, as modest as it may seem. "We want the normal people to take over the castle," they add

over a potential stir. Noel Gallagher once famously remarked that the Embrace singer "needs singing lessons", but nowadays all three bands present a united front in public. But while he may be more circumspect these days, Danny does not regret his boastful past. "If we hadn't told everybody that the album was going to be great, it wouldn't have been as good as it is," he shrugs. "It was a way of making sure we went away and worked really hard. Some people stick a needle in their arm or go and visit the pyramids, but we just told everybody we were going to be great, then went away and tried to be."

The allusion to drugs is significant, since Embrace have also attracted comment for their clean-living aversion to chemical or alcoholic excess. "I know there are bands out there who do heroin," Danny says, "but I listen to their music and there's nothing in there I want. I wouldn't mutilate myself for the sake of a good song. I keep coming back to this, but there's nothing special about us. We're just normal people who happen to write good songs. I want the normal people to take over the castle."

My Weakness is None of Your Business is released on Monday by Hut. Embrace's tour begins at Glasgow Barrowlands on Sept 4

## Quality worth trumpeting

**GERARD PRESENCER**  
*Playpus* (Linn AKD 079)  
WHEN he first burst upon the UK jazz scene with Clark Tracey in the late 1980s, Gerard Presencer was most strongly influenced, in his bright, fluent trumpet style, by the acoustic Miles Davis of the early 1960s. Ten years on, Presencer's debut recording as a leader acknowledges later electric Davis albums — the likes of *Bitches Brew*, *Live-Evil* and *On The Corner*, for example — as its chief influence. The imaginative flair and agile grace of his soloing are undimmed, however, and he rides the various grooves laid down by his rhythm section — whether bubblingly ebullient, lightly funky, or quietly understated — with the same breezy assurance he displays in straightforward contexts. His chief solo foil here is Jason Rebello, whose garrulous electric piano sound lends a suitably Milesian aura to the album. But do not underestimate the contributions of guitarist John Parricelli and bassist Andrew Clewly, who also provide gutsy, cogent solos. And the whole band is sparked by the rock-influenced drumming of Jeremy Stacey who also fills the role of producer.

**TINA MAY & TONY COE**  
*N'Oublie Jamais* (33 Records 33JAZZ042)  
GRACE, charm and musicianly poise characterise Tina May's versions of the Charles Trenet, Igal Shamir, Django Reinhardt and Cole Porter material on this intriguing French-language album, on which her pure, silk-smooth soprano is tastefully complemented by the breathily warbling saxophones of Tony Coe and John Francis's pleasantly strident violin. Fleshed out with a couple of instrumentals with French connections, and subtly held together by Brian Dee's understated piano, this recording is a fascinating companion to May's recent collaboration with pianist Nikki Iles, *Change of Sky*.

**NICK KELLY**  
Dressed for success she may be, but I fear this is a case of the empress's new clothes.

### THE AUDIENCE

**THE AUDIENCE**  
*(Linn/EMI)*  
558 771-2 £15.99  
TIPPED at the beginning of the year as one of the bands likely to catch the eye in 1998 (and not just because of the way they spell their name), the audience have not quite delivered on their early promise with this, their debut album. Still, if you like your pop music clever and coy there's much here to recommend.

## Snap, crackle and some pop corn

nine different names on the production credits, the record has a rather disjointed feel about it at times.

### NEW POP ALBUMS

- 1 *Mermaid* (Noir) GRACD299 £12.99
- 2 *Never Be To Lohan's Folk* (Capricorn) GRACD299 £12.99
- 3 *Who Do You Think I Am* (Island) 524 516-2 £15.99
- 4 *Who Do You Think I Am* (Island) 524 516-2 £15.99
- 5 *Who Do You Think I Am* (Island) 524 516-2 £15.99
- 6 *Who Do You Think I Am* (Island) 524 516-2 £15.99
- 7 *Who Do You Think I Am* (Island) 524 516-2 £15.99
- 8 *Who Do You Think I Am* (Island) 524 516-2 £15.99
- 9 *Who Do You Think I Am* (Island) 524 516-2 £15.99
- 10 *Who Do You Think I Am* (Island) 524 516-2 £15.99

### TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 *Talk on Corners* (Atlantic)
- 2 *International Velvet* (Catalonia/Bianco Y Negro)
- 3 *Postcards from Heaven* (Lighthouse Family/Wild Card)
- 4 *Simply Deep* (East West)
- 5 *Just a Minute* (Mercury)
- 6 *Just a Minute* (Mercury)
- 7 *Where We Belong* (Mercury)
- 8 *Where We Belong* (Mercury)
- 9 *Life There's a Lull* (Robbie Williams/Chrysalis)
- 10 *Life There's a Lull* (Robbie Williams/Chrysalis)

Reeves is a fine student of the type of sly wordplay and witty, enigmatic couplets ("Staying on the straight and narrow/Singing like Minnie Ransom") patented by Morrissey. But the album has its share of fillers and runs out of steam towards the end: the closing track, *How's That*, stumbles on for nearly seven minutes, descending into a pointless instrumental jam. And with

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the *Times* Music Shop on 0345 023498

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## Caitlin Moran on the inherited homesickness that inspires much of our best music

### Talking 'bout the next generation

You can usually make a fairly informed punt on the future of music by looking in the news pages. Spells of economic thrust and boom precipitate waves of hard yungie-rock (Sade, Live Aid). Wars provoke hideous yowling by the Cranberries. Short-lived tabloid phenomena trigger a song by Catatonia (*Road Rage, Mulder and Scully*). The release of a Hollywood flop so massive it sinks the film studio sees Suggs's soundtrack contribution crashing in at No 42. And any change in immigration laws will dictate whether the next generation's pop is hangin' or clanging.

grant parents pass on entirely unconsciously. In Welsh, it is called *hiraeth* — there is no direct translation, because it's something that affects the guts, not the brain, but it's roughly equivalent to longing. Longing for a land, the land: the homesickness of the diaspora. Immigrant parents are in constant, quiet mourning for their homeland: it is a neatly covered hole in the centre of them. This hole is passed along to the children, along with DNA. It's this nameless ache that translates into music so well: the inarticulate hunger of Oasis (second-generation Irish in Manchester); Cornershop's unreachable visions of paradise (second-generation Sikhs in Wolverhampton); and the Puggies' dislocated laments (second-generation Haitians in New York). It's this combination of crowd-pleasing starriness and unbearable gut-tugging that makes immigrants' parades the best gig you'll ever attend. Whether it's a Punjabi wedding, a Caribbean birthday or an Irish wake, the evening starts off with furious dancing music, with all the uncles squabbling over the instruments and/or stereo. Then one relative, drunk but oddly clear-eyed, will strike up with something that stills the room, and has the men looking into their pints while their wives stare out of the window. And just before the weeping starts, he'll lead off with something furious and jiggable again, and the kids will jump up and spill their Ribena on the carpet, and the aunts will scold them for starting a riot. And if that isn't perfect training for thrilling thousands at Wembley, then what is?

### HMV recommendscountry

- NOBODY LOVE, NOBODY GETS HURT** SUZY BOGUS  
Includes "Somebody to Love" and guest performances from Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood and other Nashville greats.
- THE KEY** VANCE GAI  
This self-composed album is hailed as his best to date and represents a return to his Nashville roots.
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- WRITE IT IN STONE** KETH HARLING  
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LISTINGS

At Wembley, Elvis lives!

ARTS

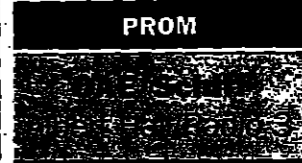
EDINBURGH

A night of urban angst

EDINBURGH: Nostalgia in a home-grown play; plus a round-up of the Fringe comedy shows

Stop, start and go

Period-instrument performance of Beethoven's symphonies is common enough now for us to know what to expect in terms of the greater clarity of texture it affords. Even so, how much more revolutionary the opening movement of the Eroica sounds when those dissonant repeated chords can be distinguished as such, rather than as just a mighty noise. Other aspects of Heinrich Schick's performance with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment were equally revelatory, yet I came away with mixed feelings about his rather idiosyncratic interpretation. Schick, also a renowned cellist, "plays" the orchestra like a soloist: his control and exploitation of dynamic range, for example, were absolute, and successfully highlighted the overall structure, as in the swift and dramatic build-up to the climax in the central section of



PROM

the Funeral March in the second movement. Yet he also had a disconcerting tendency to conduct the surface rhythmic detail, pulling the beat around and interfering with the sense of onward flow, instead of conveying a constant inner pulse and allowing the inexorable momentum of Beethoven's music to sweep the listener along. Perhaps this stems from his often jerky movements: the best moments came when he let go, and the orchestra could get the bit between its collective teeth. The OAE gave its all: the woodwinds alert, the strings responsive and the horns romping home in a triumphant blaze of sound in the finale. The rhythmic problem also marred the first half of the programme, itself rather bitty and made to feel more so by Schick's stop-start manner of dispatch. Haydn's Symphony No 70 in D major is a streamline tonic in comparison with the heavy cognac of the Eroica, but it has its moments of originality, most convincingly brought out by Schick in the pi-anissimo of the enigmatic repeated-note motif of the final Allegro. Otherwise he had only two gears for Haydn, veering alarmingly from emphatic rumbustiousness to a rather indulgent and unidiomatic lyricism. The baritone Thomas Allen shone in the pair of "insertion" arias by Haydn that followed, and in the extracts from Gluck's Iphigenia cycle. I could easily take more of this from him and the OAE, but I think I'd go for a different conductor.

HETTIE JUDAH

TESS KNIGHTON

Birds of familiar feathers

If you thought the Scots hamlet in which David Harrower set his first play was bleak, welcome and one occurs. Knives in Hens was about a woman trapped in a 19th-century community where using a vocabulary of more than 100 words was mortal sin. But in the contemporary Glasgow, Edinburgh or Leith of Kill the Old Torture their Young — well, the title doesn't exactly suggest Santa in a kit, does it? Actually, it is the sort of over-the-top, editorialising title that leaves you wondering if the play itself has anything significant to add. You could say much the same of Mark Leese's set, which is not content to out-Conran Conran with its minimalist desks, benches and shelves but must colour them grey too. Let's concede that it is a dramatist's duty to draw our attention to urban aridity when he genuinely sees and feels it; but it is also a critic's right to protest when he finds insufficient originality in what's become a familiar picture.

Robert Cavanagh's big, earnest Robert returns to the city of his birth to make a gritty TV documentary, and, inevitably enough, discovers nothing comforting. His complaint is that everything that originally sent him south has been preserved by the citizenry; but Harrower's evidence is that time and progress have brought a new desperation to Scotland. His producer (Andrew Byatt) is a harried divorcee in thrall to the soulless bureaucrats who own him. The TV company's secretary

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Russell Hunter (Paul) and Andrew Byatt (Steven) in David Harrower's bleak new play

Telling tall stories

The days of the "Narrative? Pah, that's for wimps" attitude are still so fresh that half the Fringe is still floundering about in a puddle of spurious "links" with which to glue their shows coherence, while much of the rest is adopting a policy of bafflement in disguise: "There is no connection between these two jokes, but if we confuse you enough you may never notice." A few wise souls, however, have abandoned the waning cool of amorphous routines and headed straight for the hard stuff.

Ben Moor is something of a pioneer in this area. His new show My Last Week With Modolla is another journey into exquisite Moor-world, where amateur plastic surgeons perform rhinoplasties with puity for endless adapta-

COMEDY

betraying their trust in a finale of quite unique grotesquery. Capurro plays Tom, a straight-acting gay comedian, who tells us the story of his relationship with cute time-warped boy Taylor with the aid of improvised glove puppets made from his socks and a pair of oven gloves. There are still glints of the old Capurro venom: he says of his grandmother, "she looks good because she eats well and exercises regularly, apparently at the same time; sucking the blood from a baby's neck takes a lot of work". But as Tom he is the kind of non-threatening

gay character currently beloved of Hollywood. The tone is artfully judged, the writing skilful, and Capurro resists the temptation to play everything for laughs. One of this year's most bizarre acts is Braud's X's Gawk-A-Go-Go. This is a tawdry throw of the world of trashy porn kitsch conducted with a busload of extraordinary mechanical "clouts". Hosted by the bikini-clad Miss Vixen Van Voom, the show follows film-maker Skink Fink's rise to the top of the Mexican mondo movie market, motto: "There's always room for one more stain on the mattress". Accompanied by Shirley Temple in her new career as a caged,

blood-sucking peck, and a band called Nature's Mistakes, the climax of the show, and Skink's career, is Ellyvis — the body of the Elephant Man taken over by the soul of The King. Selling Out is the second chapter in the Johnny Vegas story; sponsored, naturally, by Hobnob biscuits and a host of clay and beer-related organisations. Mr Vegas still has a magnetic control over an audience; any performer who can make a room full of Guardian readers (his words, not mine) do the hokey-cokey has a certain kind of genius. But there is a slight feeling that the Johnny Vegas experience has lost its direction, reinforced by the 15-minute paean to the Perrier Award with which he ends the show.

HETTIE JUDAH

TESS KNIGHTON

RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by James Christopher

LONDON
BBC PROMS: Church, cathedral, and collegiate choirs present a Choral Day that starts at 2.30pm on Saturday with Tallis's Spem in album and concludes at 8pm with a choir of 1,000 voices singing Offa's original version of Carnival Battle. Chorus taking part include Joyful Company of Singers, St Catharine, Oxford's New College, and Huddersfield Choral Society. Albert Hall (0171-589 8212). Tomorrow, from 2.30pm. £



Elvis lives! Legendary

ELVIS WADE: America's legendary Elvis impersonator, Wade Carmichael, comes to Wembley with a tribute concert that's received glowing testimonials from Elvis's own backing singers, the Jordanaires, and the elderly Miss Bernet Austin who penned Heartbreak Hotel. Elvis himself apparently gave Wade a standing ovation in 1976 before topping him on his act for the last time at Wembley Arena (0181-602 0002). Sunday, 7.30pm.

WULFURZER RECITAL: Acclaimed organist Jurek Dowdall plays a wide selection of works, including the original numbers on the original mighty Wulfurzer organ that once graced the Regal cinema in Kingston upon Thames. Musical Museum (0181-660 8100). Tomorrow, 7.45pm.

EDINBURGH: Royal Scottish National Orchestra opens the International Festival. Donald Runnicles conducts Beethoven's Grand Masses de Misses, one of the biggest works in the choral repertoire, at the Royal Hall (Sunday, 8pm; 0131-473 2000). Notable Fringe openings at the Pleasance (0131-699 6500) include Once presented by the acclaimed drama company, Derris (Sunday, 11.15pm). And at Densrow

NEW WEST END SHOWS
Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE
Geoff Brown's choice of the best movies

NEW RELEASES
The Avengers (12): Screen version of the cult TV series from the 60s, with Ralph Fiennes and Uma Thurman, and Sean Connery as the arch villain threatening the world's weather. Director, Jeremiah Chechik.

THE AVENGERS (12): Screen version of the cult TV series from the 60s, with Ralph Fiennes and Uma Thurman, and Sean Connery as the arch villain threatening the world's weather. Director, Jeremiah Chechik.

THEATRE
KILL THE OLD TORTURE THEIR YOUNG
(0131-699 6500)
WULFURZER RECITAL
(0181-660 8100)

RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND
LONDON
BBC PROMS
(0171-589 8212)

EDINBURGH
ROYAL SCOTTISH NATIONAL ORCHESTRA
(0131-473 2000)

NEW WEST END SHOWS
JEREMY KINGSTON'S CHOICE
(0171-699 6500)

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE
GEOFF BROWN'S CHOICE
(0171-699 6500)

NEW RELEASES
THE AVENGERS (12)
(0171-699 6500)

COMEDY
betraying their trust in a finale of quite unique grotesquery. Capurro plays Tom, a straight-acting gay comedian, who tells us the story of his relationship with cute time-warped boy Taylor with the aid of improvised glove puppets made from his socks and a pair of oven gloves.

CONCERTS
TOTAL UNDERGROUND
Rod Stewart
Simply Red
Cliff Richard
Bee Gees
Robbie Williams
Rolling Stones
Eric Clapton
Lionel Richie
Neil Diamond
Tubular Bells & Lord of the Dance

THEATRES
ALBANY
ALBANY AT THE ALBANY
ALBANY VICTORIA
ALBANY VICTORIA
ALBANY VICTORIA

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Channel 4
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Channel 4

# And now, the dollypop newspaper

How the Daily Star discovered a novel solution to the problem of attracting new young readers

**H**anging over Andy Flint-off's peg when fans were allowed a rare peep inside England's dressing-room after Monday's victory over South Africa was a vast pin-up, the size of this page, of Jordan, a topless model, published that morning in the *Daily Star*.

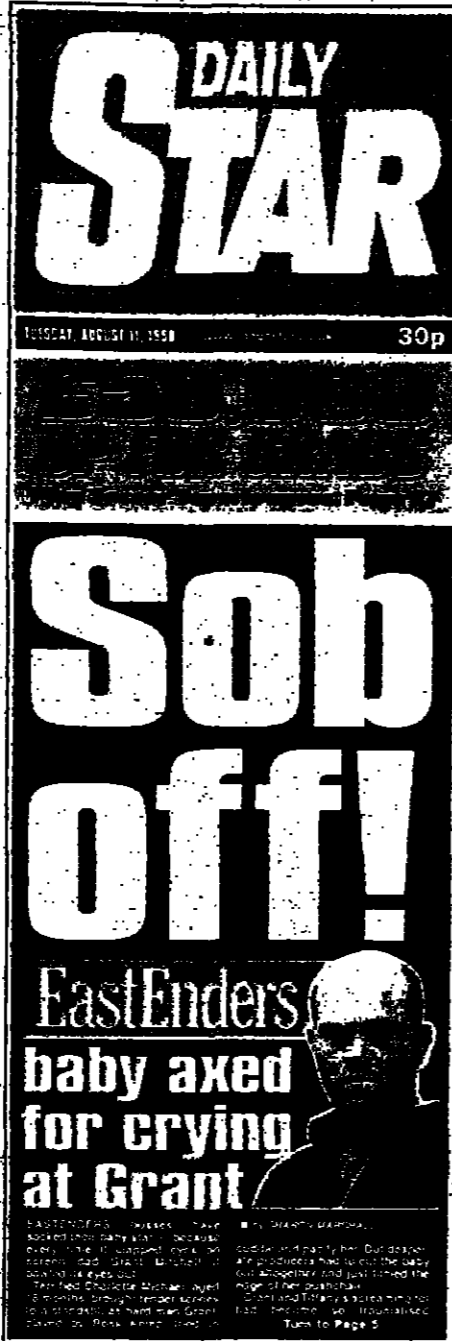
Next morning, as most tabloids — and *The Daily Telegraph* — concentrated on *Tailor's* photographs of a topless Anthea Turner, *Star* Editor/Captain Phil Walker decided to put Jordan in to bat for a second innings. There were at least four reasons. The fee of £2,000 for the Turner photograph was a bit steep for the *Star* (which ranks third among the mass-market tabloids). The choice of Jordan also meant that the *Star* front page looked different from *The Sun* and *The Mirror*. Walker could also use three more pictures of Jordan, in two of which she was topless, and, above all, his subs could exploit their talent for puns.

Beware, you may be about to groan. Jordan had served up "a couple of stunning bouncers" to help England win, the *Star* proclaimed. "Out of her covers and showing a very fine leg," she was "the maiden the whole nation would love to bowl over". She was then "caught leg before" in another topless pose as she helped to "stump" the South Africans.

Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear: *Star* subs hit seven puzzling googlies. You either enjoy that sort of journalism or you don't and if you don't, it is easy to mock. Yet they are the work of skilled, intelligent journalists who enjoy their job and who know what they are doing and why.

At 54, Walker is a Fleet Street veteran who was deputy editor of the *Daily Mirror* in the Maxwell era and who has now edited the *Daily Star* for five years. He is a keen student of 18th-century history and an avid birdwatcher. A text behind his desk declares: "He who hoots with the owl by night/Shall not soar with the eagle by day". It is, he thinks, the perfect motto for life in Fleet Street.

His office is also decorated with many other awards, principally for the *Star's* sense of pun. There is *The Big Breakfast's* 1997 Pin of the Year, "We Tikka More Care of



Girls, showbiz gossip, excruciating puns... and very, very little news. The front and back pages of the Daily Star from earlier this week might be easy to mock, but they are highly crafted

Phew! and another Pin of the Month. "Necessary. Dad has Snippets", though I sensed that as a wit, Walker's personal favourite, appeared, recently, over the *Star's* weekly birdwatching column, "Egrets: I've Had A Few".

He now presides over what could be described as Britain's first newsless national newspaper — an accusation he rejects. Yet on Tuesday night, the top five items on *The Times* news schedule were: Govt defends economic policy. BP and Amoco in £67bn merger. Govt bans 36 Ecstasy-style drugs. Lord Chancellor aims to lose his breeches. British Army officer succumbs. *The Star's* schedule was briefer: Brawl Sains, Girl Band Bust Up, Chris

Evans sacked me for bedding his girl, Amanda Robbins (out-up). Boys 7 and 8 charged with murder. BBA/Amoco merge. The BP story got a paragraph on page two, against ten in *The Sun* and 15 in *The Mirror*.

What to do to save the *Daily Star* is a textbook study for marketers. One problem is that its readership is overwhelmingly weighted to young, C2DE men. It is a paper for lads, demonstrated by its headline after David Beckham's World Cup downfall: "Sorry Lads, no tits in the *Star* today — only David Beckham". Another is that, year-on-



year, sales are down 11 per cent to 574,000, against 2,340,000 for *The Mirror* (down 12 per cent) and 3,700,000 for *The Sun* (down 2.3 per cent). There are no prizes for being third in a market of three.

When Tony Blair's research guru Philip Gould (a non-executive director of the Express group, which owns the *Star*) staged focus groups,

there were two main messages. One was that the *Star* could not carry on as it was. The other was that it needed to understand how young readers consumed news — which meant a more lively approach, news as nuggets and a paper almost totally devoted to entertainment.

On the front page, there is now a mix of a daily semi-topless, four weird and wonderful news shorts and a splash, devoted this week to Dwight Yorke and a stripper, the *EastEnders* baby, the All Saints pop group, and Adriana Sklenarikova, a former lover of Mick Huck-

nall. There is pun after pun after pun in the headlines on the inside pages. Yesterday's batch included Six Crimes Table and Sling Yer Huck.

Within an hour last week, I had two contradictory responses to Walker's new *Daily Star*. One was an inquiry into whether *The Times* needed to order the paper any more for circulation to staff: was it any longer a must-read? Another was from the 27-year-old executive who runs the Media pages, Bridget Harrison, who responded by saying how much she enjoyed reading about *EastEnders* and football in the *Star* on her journey home by Tube.

That was music to Walker's ears,

since Harrison is just the sort of young woman reader he hopes to attract. But won't women be offended by the topless models? Apparently not, he says, and some enjoy comparing their assets with those of the models.

Walker enjoys his work. "I love the *Star*," he says. "What I like doing most is making people laugh. We don't take the world too seriously. As for the puns, they're part of the cheeky, bright and breezy atmosphere of the paper."

The *Star* has always lived precariously. The new strategy, which puts the paper somewhere between *The Sun* and *The Sport* as a dolly pop, must be seen as the last throw of the dice.

## Channel 4 goes it alone

FOR some years now, the ad industry has been afraid of companies other than agencies winning clients' advertising accounts. This fear was first inspired by Coca-Cola's decision to appoint the Creative Artists Agency in the early 1990s. But Coke turned out to be a maverick marketer, not a trendsetter. No major client has looked beyond its ad agency since — until this week.

It was scarcely a decision as radical as Coca-Cola's, but Channel 4's move to sever its 16-year relationship with BMP4 in favour of Britain's leading film promotion company, The Creative Partnership, will cause ripples.

The Creative Partnership is best known for its work on movies such as *Trainspotting*, *Reservoir Dogs*, *12 Monkeys* and *Tomorrow Never Dies*. It handles everything from trailers to posters. The idea is that it will now be the leading creative agency in a group of suppliers that David Brook, Channel 4's iconoclastic director of strategy and development, is putting together to create the station's advertising. This group may or may not include an ad agency.

The idea is redolent of the set-up Brook had in his last job, as the launch marketing director of Channel 5. There he employed a "virtual agency" of trendy young companies such as Mother and Michaelides & Bednash to create what many regard as the smartest

launch advertising campaign in the media sector in recent times.

Although Brook has taken pains not to criticise his former agency publicly, he clearly believes that ad agencies have a blanket approach to solving their clients' problems, and forget the inherent differences between the brands they are asked to advertise. He told *Campaign*

thinking they can write the ads better themselves. But Brook is good at persuading people to give of their best. The punting together of his group of suppliers in the coming weeks will be interesting to observe, as will the first work from The Creative Partnership. There is little doubt that many in the business will be hoping the project fails. Mr Brook's comments this week will irritate them, if only because they challenge the long-accepted norms of the UK ad industry.

TRY as I might, I have never really understood the Caffrey's ad campaign, despite the success attributed to it by the beer's brewer, Bass. The latest ad, in which a gang of friends go out on the town to the tune of Cornershop's *Brim Full of Asha*, is just the latest in a series which appeared to feature people's fun being ruined by taking a sip of Caffrey's.

The most incomprehensible ad in the series was set in Cuba. There, a man out on a hot night of rum and Latin babes in Havana bizarrely orders a pint of Caffrey's. Even more bizarrely, the barman stocks it. Then, just when you thought you were in an *X-Files* episode, he starts dreaming of what appears to be the dreary Irish shipyard he grew up in.

But I was a lone dissenting voice. Everyone else seemed to love it and the Caffrey's launch was deemed a success — until now, that is. WCRS, the agency that created the campaign and which last week won the lottery (a week's a long time in advertising) has lost the account amid mutterings that the strategy was "too melancholic".

Obviously Caffrey's drinkers are destined for a few more laughs. Roose & Partners, the low-profile agency that picked up the account, is also responsible for bringing us "whoosa! Body-form!" The mind boggles.

The author is Editor of Campaign

Stefano Hatfield



Trainspotting

## Angels in the Sky

Susan Karlin reports on a massive branding campaign



Action: Elisabeth Murdoch has big plans for Sky

With the impending explosion of television channels, it was only a matter of time before the British networks began aggressively forging strong identities to stand out from the programming noise.

British Sky Broadcasting is the first such platform to do so on a grand scale — with a £9 million branding campaign covering its corporate identity and, by autumn, 200 film, entertainment, news and sports channels.

In a way, it is fitting. Rupert Murdoch — the chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, which is the parent company of *The Times* and associate company of BSkyB — introduced the concept of network branding to American television when he started Fox in 1987. Now his daughter Elisabeth, Sky's general manager, is continuing the family business tradition.

"In a multichannel environment, especially in niche programming, it is important to have a clear relationship with your audience, that you know who they are and care that they like you," says Ms Murdoch, who turns 30 this month. "You have to remind people of the emotional value they are getting out of the service. The context you place them in gives them more value to the person who's paying for those premium channels."

Sky's new identity is the result of an eight-month collaboration with Pitzard Sullivan, a Los Angeles marketing firm that has also crafted image campaigns for HBO and CBS. Before this campaign, viewers primarily identified Sky as an aggressive and innovative satellite channel distributor and sports programmer, but were less familiar with its entertainment and news channels.

"Our challenge was how to turn a sports star into an entertainment star," says the president, Ed Sullivan. "News is important, but it's a secondary priority. Movies were perceived as being at the top of the entertainment service, followed by Sky One as a commercial network. What could

we do to make the service more valuable to customers and signal to them that things were new at Sky?"

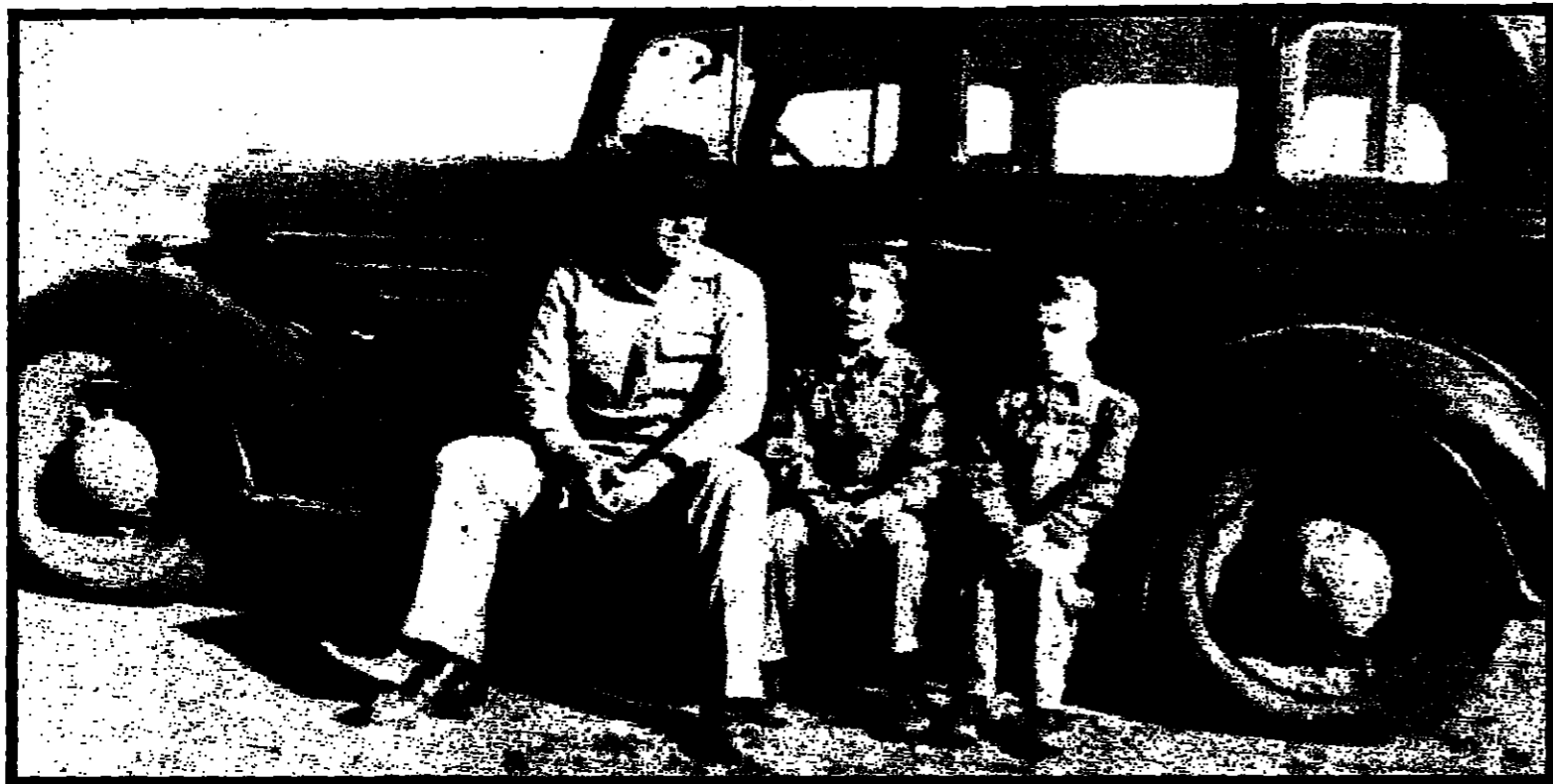
The overall promotional, scheduling and programming sensibility will more closely target a pop culture-orientated audience, from age 18 to 49, with the focus on 18 to 34.

News and sports will feature related magazine shows offering in-depth and British perspectives on each channel's topics. "The new brand strategy is to get in touch with the consumer. Think globally, act locally," says Sullivan. The branding process began with a corporate advertising

campaign created by M&C Saatchi in London. It featured ads promoting Sky's range of programming genres with the final frame depicting a rotating satellite dish turning into the Sky logo with the phrase "All you need is Sky". May I saw a reworked square logo and MTV-style promo for Sky One, the channel for young, hip entertainment programming. The new Sky Sports logo and graphics aired on August 3, featuring "Sky Sports" in white letters against a red and blue background. This week Sky News unveiled its spinning red and blue globe logo accompanied by lists of upcoming shows. Ms Murdoch hopes this will convey a "modern, switched-on look".

But the campaign's crown jewel will be the September 10 debut of the revamped Sky movie channels. Replacing un-themed film channels will be three distinct types of programming: Sky Premier with its spots of angelic women in billowing silk and orchestral music, will offer such films as *The English Patient* and a more ethereal, grander upscale feel. Sky Moviemax, depicted in bold, block lettering and accompanied by pop music, will run blockbusters such as *Liar, Liar* and *Die Hard*; and Sky Cinema, whose logo is a woman in a 1950s-style ballgown with outstretched arms holding balls of light, will hark back to old-time Hollywood.

In addition to airing American hits such as *The X-Files* and *The Simpsons*, Ms Murdoch also wants Sky to develop its own stars and signature shows. She highlights Premier's upcoming *Barry Norman's Film Night*, hosted by the critic and original Sky movies to air early next year, as well as Sky One's entertainment reality show  *Ibiza Uncovered* and the football soap, *Dream Team*. It is also forging relationships with US production firms such as the Carsey-Werner Company, the producer of *Third Rock from the Sun* and *Roseanne*, to co-develop formats that can work here and in the US.



Not such a beautiful morning: A family of 'Okies' make the trek from Oklahoma to California to try to escape the Depression in 1930s America

# America, our America

One of the unwritten laws of television is that the Americans own the copyright on America. So when a London production company makes not one, but three documentaries about American history, and they are shown to critical acclaim across the US, gaining more Emmy nominations than most US channels, it is a phenomenon.

The company, Atlantic Productions, was founded in 1993 by Anthony Geffen after a ten-year career at the BBC during which he was responsible for such programmes as *Great Journeys* and *Hirohito: Behind the Myth*.

"I left the BBC because I got fed up with the bureaucracy," he says. "Furthermore, although it still had the vision to make the kind of films I was interested in, it didn't have the money." So with the promise of some backing from the American channels A&E and Discovery, he decided to go it alone.

Since then Atlantic has made a number of high-profile films, including *The Promised Land*, the story of the

A British company is telling the US some home truths, says John Crace

black migration across America, and *Prohibition*. Its most recent production is *The American Dream*, which was such a hit when it was shown on Discovery that the White House asked for a copy for President Clinton. The programme is now being broadcast on Sunday nights on BBC2.

It is truly astonishing that Atlantic is making films in a way supposed to be anathema to Americans, who are traditionally parochial and possessive about their history, and like to coat everything with a sanitised veneer. All three films have an unparalleled warts-and-all objectivity.

"The subject matter is painful for a society trying to come to terms with itself," says Geffen. "But we wouldn't have agreed to make the series if we'd had to compromise the fundamentals of the stories we were telling." Despite

the enthusiasm of key individuals such as Greg Moyer, the president of Discovery, and Brooke Johnson at A&E, it is almost certain that none of the documentaries could have been made by an American company. There is no tradition in the US of in-depth research and telling a story through the lives of ordinary people: Americans tend to make films about big names, and mould the stories to fit the legends. Perhaps the only people who could sell a truthful version of America to America were outsiders.

Furthermore, Geffen found that many Americans, blacks especially, were willing to trust a British crew. "It was as if the fact that we were British broke through a class barrier," says Geffen. "Because they couldn't place us exactly socially, they felt that they could trust our objectivity. They be-

lieved we would listen to their stories and reproduce them accurately, rather than edit them to fit our own preconceived opinions."

Atlantic has not grown rich on the back of its success. Indeed, if the company were driven by commercial success it would have probably produced a feeble, watered-down series — in much the same way as Granada ruined *Cracker* when it made its US derivative. Not that the money worries Geffen — much. For the most part he is happy to be "shooting the films he wants to make." "We've been bombarded with so much US culture over the past 50 years and we have a duty to investigate and understand its origins."

So what comes next? "We're doing a film for Discovery and Channel 5 on the LA Police Department. Can you imagine an institution with more television myths to unpick?" Fourth time lucky for Atlantic? I wouldn't bet against it.

● The American Dream is on BBC2 on Sundays at 7pm.

## The land of the corn-fed viewer

For generations, Brits have been going to America and, under the influence of jet lag, flicking aimlessly from channel to channel in their hotel bedrooms and coming to the familiar conclusion that there is nothing to watch on American TV.

You have only to peep momentarily into *Late Night with David Letterman* to feel that there is almost certainly something in the ancient verity. On one night earlier this month this institution of American broadcasting was, for some unaccountable reason, reading off cards, one after the other, no fewer than 28 euphemisms of rapidly accelerating banality for sexual intercourse.

Just to be sure, before he started, the leader of his band was asked to explain to the audience what a euphemism was. Such snatched moments inevitably feed deeply ingrained British prejudices about the nature of American television that are probably mistaken. The hotel bedroom test is not a fair one.



The careless tourist with his remote control can quickly assemble a fine selection of garbage without knowing where to find the quality within an expanding multichannel world. This is still the system, after all, that produces such fine drama and comedy as *ER* and *Friends*.

Yet some things really do not seem to change. The sheer corniness of the presenters on breakfast television, the abiding interest with helicopter views of traffic conditions on the way to work, and the near-total lack of information from the rest of the world still irritate just as much as they did a decade ago. And the random flick-test, for all its inadequacies, seems to suggest that although new channels may be arriving all the time, not a whole lot new is going on in American television at the moment.

The car radio dial is equally full of maddeningly mopey presenters, unadventurous music and intrusive ads. The information-deprived tourist soon cannot help falling into the arms of *CNN Headline News* — slogan: "Give us half an hour and we will give you the world." Hardly. Until the bombs went off in East Africa there was an almost total obsession with the affairs of Monica Lewinsky. And with the exception of an occasional soft-timed foreign story, such as a feature item on the rebuilding of Beirut, there seemed to be a complete preoccupation with all things American. For some reason, CNN Interna-

tional, which has made an effort to recognise the existence of the rest of the world, hasn't made it into every American hotel yet. *CNN Headline News* should carry a health warning: too much can lead to serious mental derangement among viewers.

Even *USA Today*, which was plopped uninvited outside the hotel room door every morning, although a much-improved newspaper, is unremittingly American in its coverage. It can manage a paragraph of news on every American state every day, but on some days recently could manage only a few paragraphs from the rest of the world.

By contrast, a British tourist finds the American film industry vigorous and challenging. A new release such as *Something About Mary* may be completely filthy but is genuinely witty and sparky and capable of producing cross-generation belly laughs. Another recent release, Steven Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan*, also seems to have got everyone from taxi drivers to Vietnam veterans discussing the nature of violence and its portrayal on the screen and whether the brutality of the opening scenes on Omaha Beach on D-Day represents a new honesty about war, or a new form of exploitation for the box office.

The impact is already considerable. In Chicago, for instance, an entire multiplex cinema has been given over to the film so that it is showing every half-hour. A definitive verdict will have to wait until the film opens in the UK, however.

Forging that Spielberg does not make short films, I had to drag myself away an hour before the end to avoid missing the plane home — only to find the plane had been delayed by two hours.

So at this moment I do not know whether *Private Ryan* was in the end saved — although I could make a shrewd guess — and will now have to creep into the film two thirds of the way through to find out.

Once on Omaha Beach with Spielberg was quite sufficient. And after two weeks of American channel-hopping it was with something approaching gratitude that I was able to embrace Jeremy Paxman and *Newsnight* once again and jump into the *Today* programme. Then it was off to the bath with *The Week* to find out what I had missed in the world while away. If their equivalents exist somewhere in America, then I fear I did not find them.

I want to see people laugh on the Tube

the media interview



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# 'I want to see people laugh on the Tube'

## Ed Needham tells Carol Midgley why the laddish *FHM* is the most successful magazine in Europe

Stroll past the offices of *FHM* magazine today and it is likely that you will hear the sound of backs being slapped and champagne bottles being uncorked. The latest Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) figures are released this morning and *FHM* is expected to set records by passing the 75,000 mark and leaving its rivals plodding behind.

The laddish appeal of *FHM* (For Him Magazine) may have boosted sales to nearly double that of its nearest competitor, *Loaded* — making it the most successful men's

also sees *FHM* as offering a practical service. "If a man has a bald spot or an oddly-shaped penis, it's not the sort of thing he will confide in his mates about, but he can write to the magazine without fear of embarrassment. We are aimed at a section of the population who do not have the responsibilities of mortgages and kids, and who want to spend all their disposable income on clothes and holidays." Indeed, it is this quest for humour which has caused thousands of females to desert the women's market. Some 18 per cent of *FHM* readers are female, and 30 per cent of people who read men's magazines are women.

Needham believes women's magazines have remained too unrealistically Utopian. Articles headlined "Look drop-dead gorgeous in time for Christmas" no longer wash with women because they know that if they have a deformed nose and are two stone overweight, it will not happen.

In the world of women's magazines there is also virtually no bad language or cruel humour and their messages are contradictory. "You might get an article saying how great it is to be a single, modern woman living alone and the next month an article detailing why you must have a man you can blissfully settle down with," Needham says. "A lot of women's magazines now use writers from the men's market because they know they will get funny [pieces]. But then they get nervous about the jokes and take them all out."

"It's not necessarily that the women's market is shrinking — it is a lot more competitive and so they are willing to take fewer risks. As a result they batten down the hatches and the titles look similar to each other."

And why, for instance, are there no articles about buying cars? Millions of women drive them but you would think from women's magazines that it never happened.

It is astonishing to reflect that ten years ago the men's magazine sector did not exist, but is now packed with flourishing titles such as *Loaded*, *GQ* and *Esquire*. The last ABC figures showed that *Loaded* was about 200,000 copies behind *FHM*, selling 441,567, and followed by *Maxim*, which sold 249,096 copies.

The *FHM* brand is now so strong that next month it will launch a spin-off title, *FHM Collection*, dedicated to male fashion, which will initially be published twice yearly.

"Five or six years ago men's magazines were selling about 80,000 a month but they were all about fountain pens and Burberry raincoats," says Needham, 34, who five years ago was working as a translator in Barcelona.

It used to be regarded as rather cissy for men to be seen reading magazines but now men are flocking to them, possibly choosing them in favour of tabloid newspapers, which are suffering a decline.

"I like to feel there is an open-door policy at *FHM*. It has a fantastic sense of humour which isn't pompous or exclusive. We never talk down to the readers but they are not expected to know about literary New York or the latest feminist writings from New Zealand."

"We do do stuff about relationships but we never sit with chin held between thumb and forefinger spouting pseudo sex therapy. Men tend to deal with such issues by treating them as a joke."

"Thus there are articles on body odour and cars, quizzes on how to find out if you really do still love your girlfriend and compilations of the world's maddest nutters. In the most recent issue there is a disarmingly honest account by a man who hated his life when his child was born. He confesses that the gory birth put him off sex with his wife and the sleepless nights almost wrecked their relationship."

"We got a letter from a mother-to-be about that, complaining that we were putting the fear of God into men. But you can't get away from TV documentaries or the wonders of childbirth or male newspaper columnists telling us how great their kids are and how they change your life. This was just a different view."

Needham says that if the figures are as good as the experts predict, modest amounts of drink will be taken. "I think we will probably have a drink if the news is good," he says. "Last year we celebrated with two bottles of champagne and three packets of crisps."



Modesty personified: Ed Needham, the Editor of *FHM*, says that the magazine's sense of humour is one of its strongest selling points

# Sounds of the century

Michael Green, the former Controller of BBC Radio 4, is recruiting producers for the biggest project in the history of radio. Naomi Morris writes.

Brought back to the corporation less than two years after retiring, he is directing the BBC's Millennium Oral History Project, a £1.3 million undertaking which will see 8,000 interviews recorded with people from all walks of life throughout the United Kingdom.

The result will be "a unique sound-map of the century" with more than 600 radio programmes broadcast across the 40 stations in the BBC local and regional radio network starting next September. The aim is both to create captivating radio and to capture a wealth of end-of-century material for future generations.

It is one of the centrepieces of the BBC's millennium celebrations, complementing a television history of Britain written and presented by Simon Schama, the historian, bolstered by multimedia plans for the resulting digitised interview material to include spin-offs for the BBC's website, BBC Online, CD-Roms and benefits for BBC Education.

In addition, all the interviews will be placed in the British Library's National Sound Archive, where they will comprise a new Millennium Memory Bank. Green, who has spent large parts of his distinguished broadcasting career in Sheffield and Manchester, makes no apologies for this project being conducted through a service sometimes perceived as the poor relation to BBC network TV and radio. He points out that BBC local and regional radio attracts nine million listeners compared with eight million for Radio 4. It has, he says, "its feet in the soil in a way that not all sections of the BBC do".

The producers whom Green selects will each have to find 200 interview subjects to open up on radio and survey the century. That will require some sensitivity, as the project is not shying away from such areas as sexuality and the loss of childhood. Neither is it avoiding groups often neglected in programming such as the homeless and immigrants: the social, racial and age ranges of the UK should hear their voices represented.

Unlike that other attempt to chart the lives of ordinary Britons, *Mass Observation*, or the ongoing *Seven Up* television series, Green says this project will provide a one-off snapshot of the century.

He and his advisers have devised a thematic approach. Rather than have programme headings with subjects such as *War* or *Women And Work*, there are more diffuse categories such as *Living Together*, *Who We Are* and *Life And Death*. The last programme in the series will be entitled *Where Next?* in which participants will be asked about their hopes for the future and to consider the legacy of the 20th century.

"We are trying to tease out what's fresh and original and potentially unexpected," says Green. "The archives are already full of *When I Was On The Somme* and *When I Marched From Jarrow*. We want to find out how attitudes have changed, how lifestyles have changed, how what we believe has changed."

And for Green, only the corporation could pull off such a vast undertaking.

"A project of this kind is one of the joys and one of the responsibilities of public broadcasting," he says. "It is one of the things that the licence fee is there for."

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MARKETING

ing Manage

NS DIRECTOR CASTING

# Need a headline? Call Louise Woodward

GETTING Louise Woodward to appear at a session of this month's Edinburgh TV Festival smacks of a desperate bid to attract attention. The festival's declining status, noted here by Maggie Brown two weeks ago, is matched by the growing scepticism of the local TV company Scottish Television about the worth of the festival. Scottish stopped paying for the opening reception in 1996 although the company is still a general sponsor this time. Gus Macdonald, who has



Session: Louise Woodward

just stepped down as STV chairman to join the Government, was one of the spirits behind the festival and continued supporting it partly for sentimental reasons. His successor, Andrew Flanagan, has no such ties and brings an accountant's-eye view. The view in Scotland seems to be that they are spending a lot of money just for a bunch of 25-year-olds to get drunk, so it is highly unlikely that any money will come out of Scottish sports for next year's festival.

OUR broadcasters believe viewers and listeners are broad-minded enough to accept transatlantic accents. They impose them on us not just in imported drama but even nowadays in strictly British contexts, such as reporting Parliament. Americans, though, do not reciprocate, says David Hulbert, managing director of European Broadcasting for Walt Disney Television International. At a preview this week of Disney's serial, *Microsoap*, co-produced with the BBC

and aimed at children from 11 to 15, Hulbert said the series cannot be shown to the Disney Channel's 42 million American subscribers because of the accents.

Young British actors play the children of separated parents coming to terms with their new extended families. But if *Microsoap* is a hit when the BBC shows it this autumn, Disney will reshoot it with American brats in the parts. "British accents are a turn-off, except on the minority



Great divide: US audiences can't handle British accents



channels," says Hulbert. "Even *Thomas the Tank Engine* is dubbed in America now."

THE old *Sporting Life* used to be the bookmakers' bible. Its former readers would today offer long odds against its projected rebirth as an all-sports daily, following the dismissal this week of editor-in-waiting John Mulholland. David Montgomery, chief executive of the Mirror Group, insists that the relaunch will go ahead and has asked the Fleet Street veteran Pat Pilton, managing editor of the group, to get the project back on track. Pilton's first task will be to find a new editor and assess the 60-strong staff already signed up. Mulholland, meanwhile, is unlikely to be out of work for long. A City firm is said to be willing to back him if he wants to start a sports paper of his own and he has received tentative job feelers

from several papers. The only certainty is that he will not rejoin Montgomery's Mirror Group. "I'm spending this week looking after my seven-year-old daughter," he says. "It makes a change to have some sensible conversation after all that time." Bitter? Perish the thought.

CHANNEL 5's low-powered soap opera, *Family Affairs*, is having a makeover. Brian Park, fresh from successfully revamping *Coronation Street* for Granada, is to act as consultant for the series, shown five times a week, in an effort to increase its present audience of just over a million. *The Street* is watched by 15 million. Park's first act has been to hire a new producer, 31-year-old Liz Lake, from Scottish TV's popular weekly soap *High Road*. She starts on Monday and is bringing two key colleagues from Glasgow to the West London studio of Pearson TV, which makes *Family Affairs* for Channel 5. If she follows Park's example on *The Street*, she will be

introducing tougher storylines and axing tired characters — although they ought not to be too tired after little more than a year of the show's life. "It's definitely going to be worth watching," a Pearson spokeswoman enthuses, before adding quickly: "Not that it isn't worth watching now, of course."

NEVER too hot at keeping secrets to itself, the BBC is seeking to plug one of the most prolific sources of leaks — the misdirected fax. BBC faxes now contain this stern warning: "This is a private facsimile transmission intended for the named recipient only, and its contents may be confidential. If you are not the named recipient, you must not read, copy or use the content, or disclose them to any other person." Clear enough — except that the warning comes at the bottom of the page, after Auntie's juiciest secrets have already been disclosed and absorbed. Eat this after you have read it.

Alec Stewart and sister

IT was hard to believe, but there it was on the front page of the *Evening Standard* on the day of England's cricketing triumph — a picture of skipper Alec Stewart in a quite intimate embrace with a blonde woman described in the caption only as "an England fan". Could this really be family man Stewart, noted for his squeaky-clean lifestyle, the Mother Teresa of the Oval? Yes, but the "fan" was his sister Judy, who is married to Man of the Match Mark Butcher, Stewart's Surrey team-mate. And nobody on London's local paper recognised her.



Alec Stewart and sister

media times



Explosive story: Nicole Kidman and George Clooney make all the running in *The Peacemaker* — an action movie that was inspired by a magazine article

# Hollywood goes to hacks

When Tina Brown announced that she was leaving *The New Yorker* to launch a media venture that will bring out a monthly magazine, produce films and TV shows and publish books, she was dubbed "the guinea-pig of synergy" between Hollywood and American publishing.

Producers are finding inspiration for new films from journalism, says John Hazelton

zines, their journalists and their agents for more than two years. They have taken out options on the in-depth, non-fiction articles which run in publications such as *The New Yorker*, *New York* and *GQ*. In recent months, at least two other production companies have been linked with magazine publishers.

ethical questions among publishers and journalists. Until now, successful movies based on, or inspired by, magazine writing — such as DreamWorks SKG's *The Peacemaker*, drawn in part from a piece on nuclear smuggling — have been few and far between.

struggle to solve America's largest art robbery. Some producers suggest that magazines have become a more important source of movie material because of a dearth of good speculative scripts and the escalating cost of rights to books.

### AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

# WIN AN X-FILES HOLIDAY

Readers of *The Times* have the exclusive chance to win an exciting VIP fly-drive holiday for two to America, tailored for X-Files fans, courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox. The winner will visit the home towns of agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully, Martha's Vineyard and Annapolis respectively, and spend two nights in Washington to tour the White House and Pentagon.



- ACROSS
- 1 Most of youth, note, Mulder lived here (8).
  - 5 See Dana use anedone, partly for this? (6).
  - 10 Like an extraterrestrial body, strangely unweird with one part missing (9).
  - 11 Slanderous organisation two girls joined, we hear (5).
  - 12 Row with unknown agent (6).
  - 13 Nothing less than remarkable orator... (6).
  - 16 \_\_\_\_\_ who's at home here in 3 and 17, briefly (3,7).
  - 19 As crafty as Mulder? (4).
  - 21 What 32 got from leaders of entertainment, marking merit? Yes! (4).
  - 22 Radio operated on time Samantha or Melissa heard (10).
  - 24 Mischiefous tampering with files hard to follow (6).
  - 25 Security personnel in a drugs bust (6).
  - 29 Hotel where Mulder and Scully met in political conspiracy (9).
  - 30 Person of key importance to big shot returned (5).
  - 31 New role in my grasp? It goes up in smoke (6).

HOW TO ENTER For your chance to win a VIP trip to America, you must successfully complete the X-Files crossword using the clues published this week. You must also complete the tie-breaker on the entry form, which will appear again tomorrow. Send your entry, before Tuesday, September 1, 1998, to: *The Times*/X-Files Competition, PO Box 5070, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7EZ. No photocopied crosswords will be accepted.

- DOWN
- 1 Line in clip showing status of X-Files (4).
  - 2 Talking section of FBI on, i countmandated order (5).
  - 3 State of Scully's education (8).
  - 4 Dangerous states Scully, initially, has to enter (5).
  - 6 Source of Scully's problem with buzzer (6).
  - 7 A prospect, possibly, of installation for extraterrestrial travel (9).
  - 8 Agent Krycek named among male X-Files characters (4).
  - 9 Strange com seen, appearing thus in movie (8).
  - 14 Name attached to a piece of fiction — ET, for example (5).
  - 15 He is well suited to be a gunman (5).
  - 17 Astronauts trainee investing nothing in misplaced altruism (9).
  - 18 No alien seen in Fox's home on island (8).
  - 20 Origin of Duchovny's fully-grown trait (3,5).
  - 23 Get inside the part — right inside (6).
  - 25 As immature as those little men (5).

CHANGING TIMES

# It's all driving me digital

Andrew Chitty's launch diary of Britain's first digital production company

The digital age is almost upon us. BSkyB launches its satellite digital TV service on October 1. Within six months we will be bombarded with tens, perhaps hundreds, of new TV channels delivered via satellite, terrestrial and, eventually, cable systems. All the main players are in the game — the BBC, Sky, Granada and Carlton. And they are all claiming that their service will be the best, or the cheapest, or both. But what are we going to be watching?

that should be comfortable with experimental TV. If not with a hydraulic sofa.

August 5

Studio again for our enigmatically named Internet show, *404 Not Found*. Our strategy relies on multiskilling to a level that would frighten anyone used to old-style TV production. Training people is a real issue for us, with *404's* website designer getting to grips with being a sound engineer and the researchers operating the cameras.

For those of us who have produced for both television and the Internet, digital TV offers a convergence between computers and television, with enormous scope for interactivity and other innovations. But with low subscriptions, little additional advertising and a huge amount of airtime to fill, the budgets for any new programming commissioned by the media giants will be very small. Someone has to invent shows that will make this new medium worth watching and, even more importantly, worth buying.

August 7

Board meeting with our newly appointed finance director. After a mammoth signing session for our much-delayed new building, we get down to the hard issue of cashflow. Our programmes have an hourly budget one twentieth that of the last series I produced for the BBC. That's why we needed a new company, one that would work in a completely different way from previous independents.

To succeed in this new world, we think that producers should abandon many of the cosy practices they have learnt over the past ten years. Add to that the normal challenges of starting up any new company from scratch, and we have a lot to learn...

Rather than using expensive facilities on an ad hoc basis, Illumina will become a one-stop shop with all our facilities in a single building — production office, studio, location shooting, editing and (soon) multimedia and digital video disc authoring facilities. Lots of appealing new technology. At the end of the meeting our finance director solemnly intones "in a new company capital is muscle, but cashflow is blood". Profound, but what does he mean? I have a funny feeling that sometime later this year I'm about to find out.

August 2

It's the first night on air for our programmes on BSkyB's consumer and technology channel. Appropriately enough, we kick off with our new business programme *Start Up*, aimed at people who want to be the movers and shakers of the new economy. People like us! We should be having a launch party. Instead, I spend the evening poring over Illumina's business plan. If the Plan is to become reality, I have to make the figures work. Management accounting is not the kind of skill I picked up producing *Horizon*.

August 9

I thought to be watching the most exciting cricket match of the decade but instead I'm back to financial projections. I'm getting further and further away from the programming and more and more wrapped up in the business side of things. Thank goodness exec producer Joanne Evans is running the show. She's also producing a baby. I wonder what maternity rights are due? Guess that's one question I can't ask the bank manager.

August 3

In studio for the recording of our interactive arts programme, *The Lounge*. I first thought the team's ideas to be very ambitious. After three years editing *The Net* for BBC2, I'm a bit sceptical about anything which puts the words "digital", "performance" and "underground" in the same sentence. It's not that it isn't interesting stuff (it is), it's whether it works or not (it usually does). But at least the producer has abandoned her scheme for presenting *The Lounge* from a hydraulic sofa...

The word about Illumina does seem to be spreading. Other broadcasters seem to understand that a company devoted to supplying low-cost, high-volume content for digital TV and the Web will be incredibly useful as more and more channels come on stream. We're starting to talk to the BBC and Channel 4 digital channels, the cable companies and elements of the National Grid for Learning. Maybe we do know what we are doing after all. And only nine more shows to produce this week. No sweat.

Two-and-a-half years ago, Disney hired Susan Lyne, a former *Premiere* magazine Editor-in-Chief, to develop material in New York. Lyne and Disney-based Bruckheimer took out an option on a *GQ* article about the murdered Irish journalist Veronica Guerin, and commissioned a journalist to research the case.

Andrew Chitty is the managing director of Illumina Ltd, currently broadcasting on Astra 1D, transponder 58 on BSkyB's TV channel.



*The Lounge*, with presenter Hari Kizuru, left, minus hydraulic sofa

### mediawatch

#### COMMERCIAL RADIO FORGES AHEAD

More people are listening to commercial radio than BBC Radio and they are listening for longer, according to radio audience figures released by RAJAR last week.

STATION	% Change in share of listening
All BBC	-0.2
All BBC Network Radio	-0.1
All Commercial	0.5
All Local Commercial	0.4
All National Commercial	0.1

For the second quarter of this year, commercial radio took a 5.1 per cent overall share of listening against the BBC's radio service's 46.8 per cent. A further boost to commercial radio is that advertising revenue hit a record high of £112 million for this quarter, according to the Radio Advertising Bureau.

Hardest hit for the BBC is Radio 1, which lost about 300,000 listeners from its average weekly reach year on year. It is thought that many of these listeners have turned the dial away from Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball's breakfast show to listen to Virgin Radio's rival programme hosted by Chris Evans. However, according to trends analysed by Mediabid, the decline in listeners for Radio 1 has ultimately been slowed.

Virgin, which Evans's Gager Media Group bought last December, is doing well under his control. Weekly reach is up by more than 16 per cent since Q2 1997. Radios 3 and 4 are performing well for the BBC, with Radio 3 achieving its highest Q2 figures in more than two years. The new schedule unveiled by Radio 4 in March this year is also proving successful at this stage; it was the only BBC station to report a gain in listeners, quarter on quarter.

Mediawatch's online information and analysis is accessible at: <http://www.mediawatch.co.uk> Telephone: 0177-439 272.

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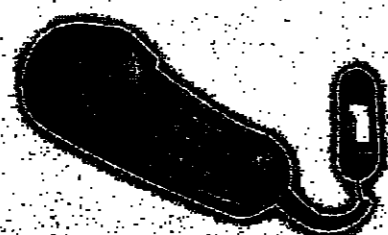
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THE TIMES  
EDUCATION

# Getting a grip on exams

Poor results do not spell failure, just a hitch. John O'Leary reviews the options

**S**o what if the worst happens next Thursday and you don't make the grade. Do you resist? Should you give up and look for a job? Or should you chance your arm in clearing and settle for a lesser university or college?

The first and most important rule if results are disappointing is to keep a sense of perspective: resist any temptation to write yourself off as a failure. Plans may have to be redrawn and sights lowered temporarily, but this is a setback, not the end of a career, let alone a life.

Rule two is to avoid hasty decisions because the options are not as simple as they may seem. Particularly now that higher education has become an expensive proposition, a change of tack needs to be considered fully.

For those who only narrowly miss their required grades, the first thing to do is to check whether the university will take you anyway — or better still, get your school or college to do it for you. Admissions tutors will often prefer the devil they feel they know to the pot luck of clearing, and an experienced teacher may be in the best position to convince them that the results do not do you justice.

If that does not work and you are convinced that an injustice has been done, it is possible to lodge an appeal. But bear in mind that you may have to postpone your entry to higher education to see the process through. The volume of appeals has been rising sharply and the success rate is good, but it can be a slow business and popular courses disappear quickly at this time of year. A gap year may be just what you need but, if not, accept the grades you are awarded.

The next temptation is to resist, especially if the school's prediction was at variance with your results. Again, think carefully before committing



Celebration time — but not everyone is a winner. Last year 1 in 6 school-leavers joined the scramble for a place in higher education

yourself. Some tutorial colleges boast impressive improvements (at a price) but most candidates who return to their old school or college do no better the second time round.

A marginal improvement may be worthless in any case because universities tend to demand higher grades if A levels are taken more than once.

For most candidates, that leaves clearing — the process by which disappointed applicants are matched to the remaining places. With 50,000 students — one in six — finding their way into higher education by this route last year, there is nothing demeaning about joining the annual scramble. Speed is of the essence in the race for the few remaining places on popular courses, so the scope for error is considerable.

A recent survey showed that an alarmingly high proportion of students who went through clearing subsequently regretted their choice of course.

**I**n particular, think carefully before switching subjects to take advantage of lower entrance requirements. Nothing is more likely to lead to disillusionment and eventual drop-out than a subject in which the student has little interest or aptitude.

Thorough research on the course and the institution is essential, even if you risk losing a place as a result. Better an apparently lesser option than three or four years of misery. Course content, location and accommodation options (if you intend to study away

from home) must all be investigated in detail before a final decision is made.

With the advent of university websites and helplines, the process can be completed more quickly than you might expect. The amount of movement in clearing is often exaggerated. Although the most sought-after courses will disappear quickly, many more are open for the rest of the month and beyond.

There should be no shortage of advice for aspiring students next week. As well as *The Times* helpline and the services offered by universities and colleges, local careers offices should be able to help. However, the starting point should be your school or college: they know you best and should be able to steer you in the right direction.

## Are A levels really as good as gold?

Be aware of the real value of learning, says Mark Pyper

**T**he interminable wait is almost over and thousands of young people experience temporary respite from tramping through Tuscany and lounging in Lanzarote to discover their fate at the hands of the A-level examiners. And just as August 20 will be a "fabjous" day for many and Armageddon for more than a few, the time is ripe to question not so much the inevitable benchmark qualities of this idiosyncratic system but whether it merits the sobriquet "gold standard".

"Gold" attracts overtones of ostentation and swagger hotly divorced from an arrogance which would claim the "one and only" label for A levels while looking

alacrantly at other excellent systems such as the International Baccalaureate or Scottish Highers. However satisfactory A levels may be for those who take and benefit from them, to claim for them a position of pre-eminence serves to undermine and dismiss the majority of the population who have different talents, who are busy obtaining other qualifications and who will be at least as useful to society as those who have traded in gold.

If the recipients of the result slips really believe they have an ingot of high-carat gold in their hands, we shall have done them and the rest of us a grave disservice. If success at A level has been of such paramount importance to teacher and student, the chances are that spoonfeeding will have played a substantial part in preparation for the exams.

Contrary to popular opinion, it is relatively straightforward in an educational context to get a young horse to drink the water it finds in front of it.

What is much more challenging — and important — is for the same horse to appreciate for itself the need for water in the first place and then to have sufficient motivation and skill to seek it out.

Those who have been crammed can come sorely unshackled at the higher-education stage with disillusionment, mental turmoil and a lump academic performance the frequent consequences.

Equally if, in pursuit of that elusive crock, our sixth-formers believe that the knowledge that brings success at A level is all they need to know while at school, they will be utterly ill-equipped to face life and play any meaningful part in the

world. To academic qualities must be added the skills and personal qualities which will enable this generation to lead itself towards an even better tomorrow.

Just as there is no point in the individual sacrificing enterprise, initiative and the ability to prosper on a short-term altar made of gold, still greater is the pity and harm for society if our bright young people conquer the academic world but lose their souls in the process. We all need training, not only to meet the challenge of life in a fast-moving and international age but an education in responsibility and compassion.

These are aspects of personal development which require resources of time, thought and energy as essential complements to an academic education. We neglect them at our peril and are more likely to forget them if we believe that the streets of life are paved with A-level gold.

● The author is Headmaster of Cordonia School.

- The *Times* will publish daily listings of higher education vacancies during the clearing period, with a helpline to advise applicants on courses.
- From Wednesday, trained staff will be available to discuss the best opportunities for degree and diploma places.
- The full clearing service will be launched in a special supplement on results day, next Thursday, offering advice on the search for a place.
- A second supplement, on August 24, will concentrate on preparation for student life.

## Greece is the word

Philip Howard reports on a flourishing summer school

**W**han that August with his searing sunne/The flood of July almost hath undone./Then longen folk to go to summer school ... or at least they get packed off there by their parents, schools or universities as part of the conditional offer of a place. And the oldest and most remarkable of these August institutions takes place at Bryanston School near Blandford Forum in Dorset. It is enough to confound grousers who groan that education is in crisis or "yoof" are not what they used to be when the said grousers were young.

Here, in what was the last great private house to be built in England, are assembled 236 young men and women aged between 16 and 21. They are not here for a holiday: they are working harder, in deeper waters, than they have ever done.

For this is the famous summer school in Ancient Greek run by the Joint Association of Classical Teachers. Students come in all shapes and weights, from complete beginners to advanced scholars who need a final polish before continuing their glittering careers at university. Fifty-eight of them (35 girls and 23 boys) have offers of a place at Oxford, or are there already. Sixty (40 girls and 20 boys) have offers of a place at Cambridge or are there already. Thirty-four come from maintained schools, 202 from independent schools. This year they have also come from Russia, Germany, the Czech Republic, France, the United States and Moldova, as well as from all over Britain. Dr Michael Koss, from Gdynia Bilingual High School in Poland, came as a tutor and observer. He has started a similar summer school at Gdansk.

All day the students attend intensive classes in groups of about eight of similar abilities. They have three hours of prep or homework on grammar, vocabulary and irregular verbs. In their spare time they put on a brilliant concert, listen to general external lectures on such topics as "Ancient Medicine, the final Enemy" and perform a Greek play in the original — having had only a fortnight to be cast for it, learn their parts

and rehearse. This year's play was the *Phoenissae* by Euripides, one of his lesser-known works.

It is a sort of *EastEnders* tragicomic saga, with Oedipus, Jocasta and all their warring children muddled up on stage. There are no fewer than four messengers' speeches of darkness, doom and the red death. A chorus of Phoenician maidens, who have lost their way en route to Delphi, express chorus-like sentiments such as "We wonder what will happen but fear the worst". They looked stunning in Macedonian national dress of black with scarlet scarves. The denouement requires



Bryanston: keeping alive the ancient arts

the services of no fewer than five corpse-carriers, selected from students with less advanced grammar. And it was magical. As darkness fell on the open-air theatre, the full moon rose like a silver balloon and floated behind the stage right to left. The twisted old plot of fratricidal jealousy suddenly became moving. The Greek was spoken with such clarity that every syllable could be heard.

So how on earth do they do it, and why? Rajni Shah played Jocasta beautifully, as an old woman bowed down by family doom, incest, ancestral curse and death. But she is, in fact, in her second year at Sidney Sussex, having made the unusual switch from English to Greek in the Cambridge Tripos. She went on Carol Handley's crash course of concentrated Greek to catch up. "I am fascinated by the theatre. And I

really wanted to read these first tragedies in the original Greek," says Ms Shah. "I can relate to them more. The people here are disgustingly talented. It is a delight to work with them."

Andrew Hobson, this year's director of the summer school, is Grammatikos for Oxford University. From Magdalen he teaches intensive Greek to undergraduates who want to read *Mods* and *Greats*, but have not done the groundwork that he taught their predecessors at Eton and Westminster. "It is surprising how much our students enjoy themselves. Of course, it keeps them busy. But few of them get a chance to spend

their holidays in such a constructive fashion. They learn more in a fortnight than most of them have in a year," he says.

Jenny Harris has just completed her A levels at Roedean and wants to read Classics at Cambridge. "This is the most work I have ever done in my life. But it is also the most fun I have ever had," she says.

And Mr Koss says "I found here the generosity and freedom, and the intellectual friendship of Aristotle's Lyceum. You are helping us Poles to rediscover our classical European roots that were cut off under Communism."

So perhaps it is not a paradox that Bryanston is such a delight. The tutors come from the top of their profession, from regius professors to the brightest and best Classics teachers in schools.

After their day's labours they eat and drink like Socrates at a symposium. For this they are offered a tiny honorarium. But they give up two weeks of their summer holidays because their summer school is a treat as well as important. They teach small classes of highly motivated and talented students, and see the ancient magic working in just two weeks. In their annual demonstration that Greek, and even grammar, can be fun, they are treading in Aristotle's peripatetic footsteps, as he walked and talked to his pupils around his Lyceum 24 centuries ago.

These are the guardians of something of great value in European culture and civilisation.

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Whitaker's relishes return of Two Step

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EQUESTRIANISM

# Whitaker relishes return of Two Step

By Jenny MacArthur

MICHAEL WHITAKER and Virtual Village Two Step, his 1996 Olympic horse, gained their biggest success for three years when they won the Pullar-Masters, the richest prize at the Aachen International Show yesterday, after three faultless rounds.

A total of 104 riders, headed by Olympic champions Blyth Tait, Mark Todd and Bruce Davidson, have entered for this year's Burghley Horse Trials to be held at Stamford Link from September 3-6.

0.29sec. "He's back to how he used to be," Whitaker said, referring to Two Step's long loss of form after the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Whitaker had asked earlier if he could ride Silk, the least experienced of his three leading horses, in the Nations' Cup today because he felt that the French-bred gelding was showing better form than either Two Step or Ashley, his other top horse.

"It's taken me a long time to get him [Two Step] back to this level and I don't want to spoil it now," Whitaker said. "I've got confidence in Silk — he's

done everything I've asked him so far."

The other three members in the Great Britain team, which is still seeking its first win of the season, are Mark Armstrong, with Prima, Geoff Billington, riding It's Otto, and John Heyman, with Virtual Village Heyman. Prima has competed in only two Nations' Cups, but she has shown consistent form this week.

With Heyman having only one Nations' Cup under his belt, it is one of the least familiar Britain teams to have been selected for Aachen. Last year, with four experienced horses in the team, including Billington and It's Otto, the team finished tenth out of 11.

Today, in what promises to be a dress rehearsal for the world championships in Rome in October, they face nine of the world's leading teams. France and Germany start as favourites, the former having won four times this season to the Samsung Nations' Cup series. Germany are the Olympic world and European champions and have the added spur of competing in front of their critical home crowd.

Blyth Tait, of New Zealand, the Olympic three-day-event champion, heads the field for the Doubleprint British Horse Trials championships, which start today at Gatcombe Park in Gloucestershire. The 65-strong entry for the British Open includes four former winners — Mark Todd, of New Zealand, Pippa Funnell and Karen Dixon, of Great Britain, and Andrew Hoy, of Australia, the holder of the title.

Results, page 45

## Christopher Irvine on a Great Britain touring team facing a huge task



The Great Britain team train for the series against New Zealand which will determine who will become world champions. Pictures: Andrew Varley

ON A visit to Whangarei, Great Britain's men were left gaping in awe at the overwhelming size of the New Zealand Maori rugby league team — the female version, that is.

"If their blokes are any bigger, they'll murder us," one player said. They were and they did.

That experience from the 1996 New Zealand tour emphasises the physical task that awaits Great Britain's women in the first of six games this weekend in Auckland, where there are the same number of female teams as in the whole of England.

In New Zealand, the authorities take the women's game altogether more seriously. The British Rugby Football League has lent some financial support, but the £80,000 for the tour has mainly been funded by "collecting and begging", Lisa McIntosh, the Britain captain, admitted.

The day before the 26-strong squad departed, the majority were ransacking buckets at Hull Kingston Rovers to make up a £2,000 shortfall.

The irony is that, two years ago, Britain's women won a se-

## Women out to rattle bones, not buckets

ries in Australia, a feat no professional male national side has achieved since 1970.

Three international matches against New Zealand will determine who are world champions, yet the team has no overall backer. Paula Clark, the physiotherapist, has sponsored the kit and each player has had to chip in £1,000.

"We're taking time off work, and leaving behind husbands, partners and kids, but you don't get to represent your country every five minutes," McIntosh said.

McIntosh, a 30-year-old leisure centre manager in Halifax and loose forward for Dudley Hill Thunderbirds, played football for Manchester United Ladies until she responded to an appeal for rugby league players in her local newspaper.

That was in 1987 and two years later she captained the



McIntosh: experienced

first Great Britain touring side to France.

"What we didn't know then was that the French women only played touch and pass," McIntosh said.

"We ended up playing an under-19 men's side, who just beat us, 10-4."

Preparation for this tour began within months of the 2-1 series victory in Australia and has coincided with a rise in popularity as certain Super League clubs have successfully tapped into a female audience in the move from winter. There are now 21 teams and 500 players, with the most significant increase at junior level. A Britain Academy side is now under consideration.

As well as being the Britain team coach, Jackie Sheldon is women's national development officer. "Before the Australia series, there was nothing for girls to aim at and we were seeing some drop out to rugby union or football," she said. "Now we've got the growth, a strong national side, and by October we hope to have leagues up and running from under-12 to 16 level."

Sheldon, a grandmother at 36, has put away her boots for good, but 15 other veterans of the Australia tour are in New Zealand, including Brenda Dobek, the main inspiration at stand-off half and player-coach of Wakefield Panthers, the dominant force in the women's game.

Natalie Gilmour shares the ability with her brother, Lee, of Wigan, to be just as quick and dangerous at centre or in the pack, while Sally Milburn, a postwoman, and Julie Burrows, a storage line manager, are prep forwards faced with some of the most onerous duties.

As if McIntosh, a comparative striping at 13st, needed reminding of the New Zealanders' size, it was confirmed by a video of the Auckland team trials smuggled out by Eddie Barnard, a New Zealander who once played for Wakefield.

"They're big lasses," McIntosh said. "But Australia seemed huge to us, and we beat them with pace and skill."

TOUR ITINERARY: August 16: New Zealand (Auckland); 17: Auckland (Carlaw Park, Auckland); 20: New Zealand (Wellington); 21: Canterbury (Christchurch); 22: New Zealand (Christchurch); 23: New Zealand (Christchurch); 24: New Zealand (Carlaw Park, Auckland).

## St Helens allow Goulding to move on

By Christopher Irvine

BOBBIE GOULDING yesterday joined Huddersfield Giants, the bottom club in the JJB Super League, after four turbulent years at St Helens, who let the Great Britain scrum half go on a free transfer two and a half weeks after Goulding was suspended for alleged misconduct at the team hotel in Swansea.

"My troubles are all gone," Goulding said. "I've got to make this work and with the help of the Huddersfield board I will." Les Coulter, the club's chief executive, said: "We recognise there are areas we need to strengthen and the signing of Bobbie is just the start." As well as making him easily Huddersfield's highest-paid player, his 18-month contract and bonuses reportedly outstrip his earnings at St Helens.

Goulding, 26, with cheeked-up spells at Wigan, Leeds and Widnes also behind him, was an enormous influence at St Helens when they won the Super League in 1996 and the Silk Cut Challenge Cup in 1996 and 1997. Lately, his contributions have wanted as disciplinary problems, which resulted in him being stripped of the captaincy last year.

His request to go on loan when he was dropped last month was denied but after the latest misconduct allegation, he was ordered to stay away from the ground pending an investigation. By letting him go without a fee, that particular chapter would appear to be closed.

Leeds can tonight claw back some ground on Wigan at the top of the Super League when London Broncos visit Headingley.

Wigan have confirmed that Denis Betts will be out for at least a month with knee ligament damage. Lee Gilmour and Mick Cassidy will form a new second-row pairing against Sheffield Eagles at Central Park on Sunday.

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CRICKET

England seize chance to test limited abilities

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IT IS coming to something when a concept created by Australians two decades ago is passed off here as original and exciting...

The format of the tournament is so simple that it could be thought half-hearted, a simple round-robin format. The two visiting teams meet first, before what is expected to be a crowd of 10,000 in Nottingham...

attacking style has often been prevalent in one-day cricket, but it would be folly to discount such a match-winner from World Cup reckoning. The same can rightly be said of Ben Hollis...



Mullally: selectors feel conditions will favour him

Until now, three games a summer has been the norm and, even when split tours have encouraged it, the idea of a midsummer three-sided competition has been rejected...

bits-and-pieces all-rounders, they now believe, are all very well on the slow, bland pitches of the sub-continent but, in England, specialists are more useful. This is largely down to selectorial research into the effect of the white ball in English conditions...

However, it will not be easy for them to renovate themselves after the deflating end to a Test series that they had fully expected to win. The rigours of playing 16 Tests inside a year have also begun to show and a lesser man than Allan Donald would have gladly taken the offer of going home for rest and treatment rather than exerting himself in three limited-overs games.

Heavy cold and sore heel notwithstanding, Donald is expected to play today and his duel with Sanath Jayasuriya, the spectacular Sri Lanka opener, may be worth the admission money alone. Sri Lanka have begun their tour as if not fully committed to it—perhaps a justifiable reaction to being granted only a single Test—but they have several players capable of turning a match. Whatever they achieve, they will do it entertainingly.

Rain frustrates bold Australia

By SARAH POTTER

HARROGATE (third day of four): Australia, with nine second-innings in hand, are 103 runs ahead of England

DESPITE some positive cricket from Australia, the second Test of the women's Ashes series is going the way of the first and seems likely to end in stalemate. Unlike Guildford, where the sun shone on a series of batting records, rain prevented any record in Harrogate in the final session yesterday.

It is Australia who will feel more frustrated. Their first-innings declaration, when England were under most pressure and being run ragged in the field, was bold. Despite another century opening partnership and an outstanding 167 from Jan Brittin, the home side confused their tactics yesterday and took too long in achieving a paltry lead.

Resuming 24 behind with five wickets in hand, England took 23 overs to score 44 runs. The intention had been for Brittin to bat normally and for England to attack from the other end. However, when Kathryn Lewis departed, top-ordering an attempted pull back to Fitzpatrick, all momentum was lost. The normally bustling Melissa Reynard could neither hit over the top nor find the gaps for quick singles.

The inertia probably caused the downfall of Brittin. Looking as secure as at any time during her 19-year career as her country's finest batsman, she eventually sliced a drive to Karen Rolton at gully, but not before she had batted for almost 7½ hours, taking her total runs in the series to 372 from three innings. England, though, could only manage eight runs from their final ten overs before Karen Smithies declared.

Much of that was down to Fitzpatrick. Bowling with variety as well as pace on a wicket that offered little assistance, she deserved her haul of four for 91. Losing Charmaine Mason, her fellow pace bowler, because of a groin strain meant extra work for the Victorian, but she has strength to go with her athleticism.

Belinda Clark and Lisa Keightley, the Australia openers, soon made their intentions clear. Lucy Pearson's second ball was struck so hard by Clark that it took two fielders to find it in the



Clark, the Australia opener, hits a boundary during her quickfire fifty yesterday

adjoining field. Clare Taylor bowled a tight spell and Clare Connor, dismissed in the first innings, took the only wicket to fall at a cost of 12 runs. If there is a criticism of Australia, it was that they did not adjust their batting order when Clark was out. Joanne Broadbent is a fine player—but does not have the power or strokeplay of Rolton or Melissa Jones. Broadbent took ten overs to get off the mark, slowing Australia's rate at a crucial time. Soon after, rain further dampened hopes of a result.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for AUSTRALIA, ENGLAND, and various player statistics including runs, wickets, and overs.

Lancashire look for Roses win to bolster title claims

By RICHARD HOBSON

WITH Surrey 41 points clear at the top of the Britannic Assurance county championship, it is now a case of rivals slipping out of contention rather than fresh challengers emerging. The round of matches beginning today carries huge significance, because four of the top six counties are in direct opposition.

Lancashire go into the Roses match at Headingley in third place, still contending on all remaining fronts. Only Warwickshire have achieved a domestic treble, in 1994, but Lancashire, who won two trophies in 1970, 90 and 96, are generating a momentum as they seek to match that. They need Derbyshire in NatWest Trophy final next month and are level on points with Essex at the top of the Axa League. However, it is the championship, last won outright in 1934 and shared in 1950, that takes priority in the ambitions of the membership.

Lancashire lose Atherton and Martin to the Emirates Triangular Series, and Schofield, the talented young leg spinner, to the under-19 Test against Pakistan. Wasim Akram will undergo a fitness test on his injured toe.

For Yorkshire, sixth, White began his comeback for the second team this week, but, with Gough on international

TABLE

Table showing league positions for various counties including Surrey, Lancashire, Gloucestershire, etc.

duty and Silverwood out for the season, the bowling looks short of experience. Gloucestershire retain the side that lost by an innings to Lancashire last week for the visit of Kent, a place below them in fifth. Kent may give a competition debut to Chris Walsh, a young batsman.

Grayson stands in as captain of Essex, the bottom county, who have six regular players missing as they take on Hampshire. Glamorgan may draft in Simon Jones, son of Jeff Jones, the former England left-arm pace bowler, if Watkin fails to overcome a side strain against Durham.

Worcestershire, with three successive defeats behind them, prefer Rawnsley to Jlingworth against Derbyshire. Sussex again omit Jarvis against Middlesex.

REMAINING MATCHES

SURREY: Aug 19, Nottinghamshire (A); Sep 1, Yorkshire (A); Sep 8, Durham (A); Sep 17, Lancashire (A); SEPTENNARIUS: Aug 17, Middlesex (H); Aug 26, Nottinghamshire (A); Sep 1, Warwickshire (A); Sep 8, Essex (H); Sep 17, Surrey (A); LANCASHIRE: Aug 14, Yorkshire (A); Aug 19, Durham (A); Sep 1, Derbyshire (A); Sep 11, Nottinghamshire (A); Sep 17, Hampshire (A); GLOUCESTERSHIRE: Aug 14, Kent (H); Aug 19, Essex (A); Aug 27, Somerset (H); Sep 1, Northamptonshire (H); Sep 8, Warwickshire (A); Sep 17, Nottinghamshire (A); WILTSHIRE: Aug 14, Gloucestershire (A); Aug 19, Warwickshire (H); Aug 26, Northamptonshire (H); Sep 1, Somerset (H); Sep 17, Warwickshire (A); YORKSHIRE: Aug 14, Lancashire (H); Aug 19, Gloucestershire (A); Sep 1, Essex (H); Sep 8, Hampshire (A); Sep 17, Sussex (A);

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Begin Bridge with The Times: Lesson 18 — MiniBridge 13

You saw this hand last week. Declarer made seven tricks in a No-Trump contract on best defence after the seven of diamonds lead. When you lead against a suit contract it is not particularly advantageous to lead your longest suit. When you have established your suit declarer will be able to trump your winners. You have to try to take tricks with high cards.

If South decides to play in clubs rather than No-Trumps then you should look to lead the top card of your three-card sequence, the queen of hearts. Set up the hand and follow the play through.

Declarer wins the queen of hearts with the king and plays the king of clubs. You win the ace and continue with the jack of hearts which declarer wins with the ace. He draws the defenders' trumps and plays a spade which you win with the ace. You cash the ten of hearts and play a spade which declarer wins in hand. Although nine tricks, his goal, are secure, he would like to make as many tricks as possible. He leads a diamond from his hand towards the ace-queen in dummy. He intends to play

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Chess compositions Much of the pleasure of chess derives not just from the competitive playing of the game, but also from the composition of intricate problems and endgame studies which can contain all the beauty and arcane logic of an advanced crossword puzzle. Britain has a proud record in composition championships.

In the recently concluded world chess composing competition in St Petersburg the following results were achieved by British composers: MATE-IN-TWO TOURNAMENT: Sally and Tony Lewis joint composition, 1st prize. MATE-IN-TWO TOURNAMENT: THE TOURNAMENT: Jim Rice 2nd prize, Jim Greaves and Tony Lewis joint composition, commended. ENDGAME STUDIES: Jonathan Mead and Oliver Cooley joint study, 5th prize. QUICK COMPOSING MATE IN TWO: Barry Gimes, 1st hon mention, John Rice, 2nd hon mention. HELPMATE TOURNAMENT: Christopher Jones, 3rd hon mention.

London clubs Here is a further game from the London clubs competition.

White: Georgopoulos Black: Wade Hurlingham v Home House London clubs 1998 King Pawn Opening 1 e4 2 Nf3 3 Nc3 4 Bc3 5 d5 6 d6 7 Qc2 8 Nf3 9 a3 10 Qc3 11 Qxc3 12 Bxc3 13 Rb1

White to play. This position is from the game Kramnik v Svidler, Dortmund, 1998. White's central pawns are on the verge of promotion. How did Vladimir Kramnik clear away the remaining blockaders? Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Harmison pays heavy price

By JOHN STERN

THE stress of bowling more than 400 first-class overs this season has taken its toll on Steve Harmison, the highly promising Durham fast bowler. Harmison, 19, has withdrawn with a calf injury from the England under-19 squad that faces Pakistan Under-19 in the first of three, four-day NatWest internationals, which start at Worcester today.

Both are also eligible for the winter tour of New Zealand, unlike most of the present squad, which is captained by Owais Shah, the Middlesex batsman. England will also have a new face behind the stumps — Mark Wallace, 16, of Glamorgan, who has played for England Under-17. He replaces Nick Wilton, of Sussex. The Pakistan side include their vice-captain, Hassan Raza, the teenage batting prodigy, who missed the one-

day series with a knee injury that became infected and meant that he had to receive treatment in hospital. He now appears to be back to full fitness and in some form, too, judging by his century and a fifty in two warm-up games against ECB Midlands Under-19 and ECB North Under-19. After this game at Worcester, the series moves on to Taunton the week after next. The final match is at Chelmsford, starting on August 31.

WORD WATCHING By Philip Howard. ECKA: a. Swedish furniture designer b. German for corner c. An Indian carriage. DARLINT: a. A steepening cliff b. A beloved one c. A marshal's pistol. APOGEE: a. Top of a missile curve b. A dishonest apology c. Australian cotton tree. Answers on page 46.

WINNING MOVE By Raymond Keene. White to play. This position is from the game Kramnik v Svidler, Dortmund, 1998. White's central pawns are on the verge of promotion. How did Vladimir Kramnik clear away the remaining blockaders? Solution on page 46.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RACING RESULTS

Table of racing results for Sandown Park, Nottingham, and Hamilton Park, including race numbers, winners, and odds.

Table of racing results for Beverley and Chepstow, including race numbers, winners, and odds.

Large advertisement for Beraynim 1000's and other products, featuring a person's face and various text elements.





Second division moves to top of Conference agenda

THE full-scale redrawing of the non-league map promised by the Football Conference's plan to establish a second division will not deflect energies from what promises to be a fiercely competitive season that kicks off tomorrow.

With Rushden and Diamonds and Stevenage Borough introducing full-time football, to go along with Hereford United and Doncaster Rovers, a no-holds-barred pursuit of the promotion place to the Nationwide League is in prospect.

Fourteen clubs now possess A-graded grounds, with another four closing in fast, so the ability of the Conference to prepare clubs for the step up is clear.

The Conference to prepare clubs for the step up is clear, Macleod Field Town, in the past year, and Halifax Town, this week, have shown that the clubs have much to offer the Nationwide League in playing terms.

Walter Gammie on non-league football's hopes and dreams on eve of new season

we're expecting that about November time, there's no precedent to suggest us falling in our application. There should be no problem.

In fact, the FA has itself introduced significant changes to the calendar and, consequently, the rhythm of the season, by altering exemptions in the FA Cup and the FA Umbro Trophy.

berg Vase finals — along with the FA Cup — will, incidentally, be settled by penalties after extra time, doing away with possible replays.

championship match against Bulgaria on a Saturday (October 10), which will kick off at 3 o'clock and will be live on Sky.

Boardman back in saddle for Britain

CYCLING: Chris Boardman will ride for Great Britain in the 4,000 metres at the world championships in Bordeaux later this month.

NI SNOOKER: Mehmet Husnu, from Cyprus, yesterday made the second 147 break in four days during the qualifying rounds of the China International at Plymouth Pavilions.

NI BASKETBALL: Chris Pullen became the youngest coach in the Budweiser League yesterday when Worthing Bears announced the appointment of the 28-year-old former coach of Emerson College.

NI TENNIS: Goran Ivanisevic, the runner-up at Wimbledon this year, lost to Petr Korda in the third round of the ATP championship in Mason, Ohio.

NI GOLF: Eddie Pollard will hope to shake off the disappointment of suffering successive defeats in play-offs by winning the West of Ireland seniors championship, which starts today at the new East Coast Golf Club in Bodkee.

FOOTBALL

Gillespie denies that injury is threatening career

By GEORGE CAULKIN AND RUSSELL KEMPSON

TEN days after Keith Gillespie's proposed £3.5 million transfer from Newcastle United to Middlesbrough collapsed in confusion and acrimony, the Northern Ireland winger went on the offensive last night, roundly condemning reports that the lingering ankle injury that scuppered the move might end his career.

Amid contrasting signals from the FA Carling Premiership club, Kenny Dalgligh, the Newcastle manager, described the claims, which originated from a local evening newspaper, as "fantasy".

What ever the source, Gillespie, 23, was in the unenviable position of arriving at Newcastle's Chester-le-Street training ground yesterday to be confronted with a back-page headline that read: "Your Career Could Be Over".



Gillespie: confusion

and which caused him to fail a medical at Middlesbrough, was not as straightforward as it first appeared.

amphetamines — more commonly known as "speed" — but the case against him was withdrawn after a friend admitted spiking Nicholson's drink.

Richardson is now hoping to help to educate fellow players on the dangers of drugs. "Shane is very willing," Brendan Batson, deputy chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said.

Nicholson also revealed that Real Madrid had subsequently shown an interest in Jarro, had agreed a fee but then backed out of the deal.



Gebrselassie, of Ethiopia, acknowledges the crowd after winning the 5,000 metres at the Weltklasse in Zurich

Weltklasse losing its attraction

THE Weltklasse in Zurich lived up to its name on Wednesday night by producing world-class performances in every event. But a dearth of pure athletics might not be enough to keep it sitting on top of the globe as the No 1 Grand Prix meeting.

Zurich relies on pure athletics to draw its 24,000 crowd but Meert does not simply rely on the athletes. He organises a fireworks display at the King Baudouin Stadium and invites African drummers to bang rhythmically as the athletes circle the track.

Brussels gets the performances too. In Zurich three world records were set by African middle-distance runners last year. But Brussels parried the blow by producing two records of its own.

have done with those drums. There was only one world-record near-miss, by Hicham El Guerrouj, of Morocco, in the men's 1,500 metres while Haile Gebrselassie, of Ethiopia, failed to break the world 5,000 metres record.

WIN A CLASSIC FERRARI 328 GTB. The leaderboard after the German Grand Prix appears below with M Greenhaigh of Norfolk leading the race for the chance to win a classic Ferrari 328 GTB or a trip to either the 1999 Australian or Monaco Grand Prix.

FOR THE RECORD. ATHLETICS: ZURICH 4000m: M Greenhaigh (GB) 44:54.800m: M Greenhaigh (GB) 1:24:18.0. 5000m: M Greenhaigh (GB) 1:24:18.0. 10000m: M Greenhaigh (GB) 2:49:38.0. 15000m: M Greenhaigh (GB) 4:04:03.0. 20000m: M Greenhaigh (GB) 5:19:28.0. 25000m: M Greenhaigh (GB) 6:34:53.0. 30000m: M Greenhaigh (GB) 7:50:18.0. 35000m: M Greenhaigh (GB) 9:05:43.0. 40000m: M Greenhaigh (GB) 10:21:08.0.

RUGBY UNION. Bristol pick Dwyer to revive their fortunes. BRISTOL yesterday gave notice that they intend to regain their place among the elite by announcing that Bob Dwyer and Jack Rowell will be joining the club in high-profile positions.

BOWLS. Price aims to continue in role of champion. WHILE the women's national triples championship reached the quarter-final stage at Royal Leamington Spa yesterday, a powerful contingent of England's leading players rolled up to contest the blue ribbon event, the four-wood singles championship.

GOLF: WOODS MAKES STRONG START IN FIRST ROUND OF US PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Price happy with A level results

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN SEATTLE

NICK PRICE made a good start to his attempt to join Gene Sarazen and Sam Snead as three-time winners of the US PGA Championship here yesterday.

opened up. Thus there is a premium on accurate driving and a premium on accurate second shots.



Faldo: problems

Ian Woosnam, hitting the ball wildly, was out in 36. Only on the short 5th, which measures 195 yards, did he hit an accurate tee shot, which stopped two feet past the hole.

Price teed off in the company of Tiger Woods and Jeff Sluman, whose drives on the opening hole were shocking.

skins of geese flying low overhead and finish off the picture with a view of a snow-capped mountain and you have a good mental image of the setting for this event.

the sort that is so common elsewhere in the US was not just muted, it was completely absent.

He birdied the 2nd and saved his par at the 3rd with a good bunker shot and a 15-foot putt. He reached the turn in 34 and moved to two under when he birdied the 10th as well.

At this point, Woods was one stroke off the lead held by Trevor Dodds, the winner of the Greater Greensboro Chrysler Classic earlier this year.

After playing a practice round with Nick Faldo, Lee Westwood said his Ryder Cup partner was in good form, hitting the ball better than he had seen him for some time, but Faldo's play over his first nine holes was unconvincing.

He saved his par on the opening hole by exploding from a bunker to two feet and though his second shot ran over the back of the green at the 2nd, he failed to make a birdie, instead chipping and two-putting.

though its length is such it would normally be played as a five. Faldo's drive failed to find the fairway, he played a poor third shot to the green and then hit a poor first putt from 35 feet. That was his first bogey of the day.

A second followed on the 8th when it was least expected. On that long-par four, which must make competitors feel as though they are shooting down the narrowing barrel of a gun, Faldo was the only one of his three-ball to be on the fairway with his drive.

Lehman's second shot left his ball 50 yards short of the flag, Crenshaw's perhaps 100 yards. First Crenshaw pitched superbly over a knoll in the green and holed the putt for an improbably par. Then Lehman's pitch, heavy with spin, fazed to a halt inches from the flag for another par.

The mallet-style putter he has been using only for a couple of months did him proud, especially on the 6th and 7th holes. "You never stop searching for the perfect putter but this one has worked really well" Price said. "It has helped me a lot. I have always been B-plus as a putter. On tour you have to put at a level of A-minus or A to win."

Sahalee may have looked benign, as it has for most of this week as the state of Washington enjoys a glorious summer, but looks can be deceptive.

King spends wet birthday out in Open

BY MEL WEBB

WHAT a way to spend your birthday. Betsy King passed the 43rd anniversary of her birth yesterday and of her own free will elected to celebrate it, not by doing one of the 101 pleasant things that come readily to mind but by traipsing round a golf course in driving rain, ruining her clothes and getting blown to bits by the wind.

King was one of only two players who finished a foul day at Royal Lytham and St Annes under par, the other one being her co-leader, Brandy Burton.

They returned rounds of 71, one under par, and if that does not sound like glittering stuff, be assured that on a calm day their scores would have been worth 65 at worst. They were that good; it was that nasty.

Inclement weather is an occupational hazard for golfers, who regularly leave the sanctuary of the locker-room and voluntarily pursue their sport in weather that would keep a navy indoors.

bells on and, for preference, galoshes and mackintosh, too. For all that there is a purse of £575,000 on offer at Lytham this year, there had to be better ways of spending four hours and a half.

If King, Burton and the rest of the considerable American presence in this tournament were not on the northwest coast of England this week, they would undoubtedly be practising their craft somewhere warm and dry; the sun always shines in the United States, everybody knows that.

Like all her fellow competitors, King found that it was the wind, not the precipitation, that was the prime impediment to littering a scorecard with birdies.

This was a day not so much for low scoring but for damage limitation, and King and Burton did that better than anybody.

Almost as proficient were Trish Johnson, who carried the soggy flag for Britain a shot behind the leaders, and Smriti Mehra, India's only woman professional, and the redoubtable Dale Reid, a further stroke behind.

Laura Davies and Se Ri Pak, both of whom add celebrity to their golfing prowess,



King plays her tee-shot at the 12th on the way to a share of the lead in the first round

had 79 and 78 respectively, in most tournaments. First rounds such as these would put victory virtually out of reach. In this one, both players are still in contention.

Davies was 38 out, 41 back and was disconsolate about the rubbish she had found herself playing through. "It was just impossible," she said. "What more can I say? This is a great golf course, no question about it, but in the combination of wind and rain that we faced it was just about impossible."

King had three birdies and a couple of bogeys, Burton four birdies, a bogey and a double-bogey and both of

them dropped shots at the dangerous 17th. In calm conditions the hole is only 396 yards long for the women professionals, but on this day it was played straight into the misanthropic nose of the gale.

King was still 50 yards short after playing two solid strokes and even then her problems were not over, for her chip stopped 25 feet short, whence she took two putts for a five. In comparison with that plain, almost regulation bogey, Burton played the hole with exotic abandon.

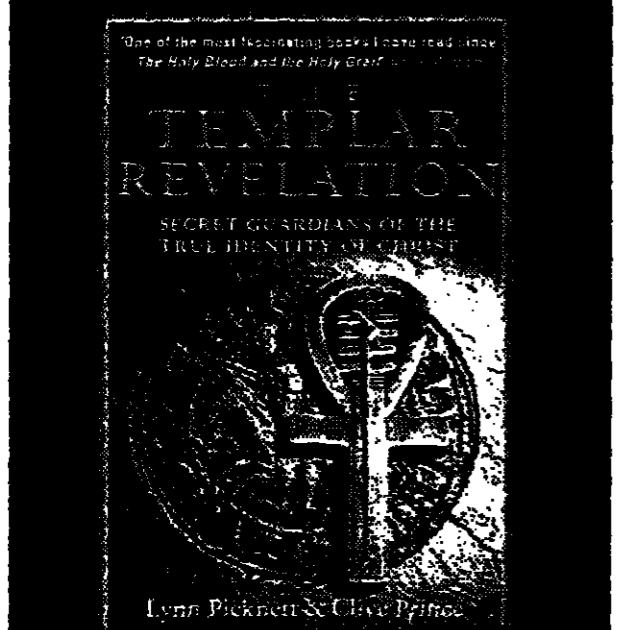
She drove into a fairway bunker, escaped, hit a four-wood 190 yards into deep brush, put the ball into

another bunker, blasted out to three feet and holed the putt for a double-bogey six. The few increasingly frantic minutes she spent on the hole were many things, few of them good. What they were not was boring.

"I'm pretty excited about my round," Burton said, but did not look it. "It was hard to get the ball close to the hole," King remarked with studied understatement. What trouper — one takes one's sou'wester off to them.

LEADING SCORES (98 and in unless stated): 71: B King (US), B Burton (US); 72: T Johnson; 73: S Mehra (IND); 74: D Reid; 75: L Pak (KOR); 76: S Reid (GB); 77: J Moore; A Soeriano (INA)

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Schumacher feels the heat

FROM KEVIN EASON IN BUDAPEST

THE two main protagonists of the Formula One world championship shook hands yesterday, though with all the warmth of the polar icecap. Michael Schumacher's implacable features were met by the ice cool of Mika Hakkinen in a piece of stage-managed formality before battle recommences this weekend.

Hakkinen can virtually put the drivers' championship beyond his German rival's reach

by winning the Hungarian Grand Prix. This race is crucial for Schumacher after failures in Austria and Germany left him 16 points adrift of Hakkinen with five races remaining. He said yesterday: "The more points I lose, the more difficult it gets. I must get points and this is a good circuit to do that."

Ferrari have been grinding out the miles in testing. Schumacher, Eddie Irvine, his team-mate, and Luca Badoer, the test driver, covered almost 900 miles in four days, the equivalent distance of five grands prix.

Coulthard said that he had rescheduled his training regime to the middle of the day to experience the problems. Temperatures in the cockpits on Sunday will be up to 50C and the drivers will shed half a stone.

If Schumacher is to have a chance to revive his championship hopes, it will be here, where temperatures are expected to be more than 40C. Schumacher is a master of the tight twists and turns of this awkward circuit, winning pole position last year, and the McLaren pair know that only the McLaren team-mate, said: "If we win, it will be a big step forward."

"It's hard on the car and the driver," the Scot said. "It takes its toll on everyone even the mechanics have to beware and the team has to watch that everyone gets enough fluids."

WORD-WATCHING

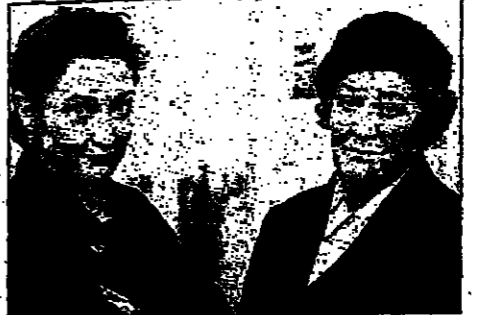
- Answers from page 42
ECCA (c) A small one-horned vehicle used in India. The word itself is an Anglo-Indian combination of the Hindi ekka [unit] and the Sanskrit eki [one].
CUCUMIFORM (c) Cucumber-shaped. Used to describe the Cucumiform Holothuriidae, "whose body is but little elongated, more or less fusiform, pentagonal, with tentaculiform suckers."
DARLINT (c) Eager to darling, and especially in use in districts and jocularly. Found used it rather like the latter in Canton. "Sissy, darlint, would you not stop making war on insectible objects."
APOGEE (c) The point in the trajectory of a missile, rocket or the like at which it is at its greatest distance from the earth. "When the satellite reaches the 23,300 mile apogee of the trajectory, the solid-propellant apogee motor will be used to inject the satellite into a circular, near-synchronous orbit."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1. Bx7-e1 Kxf7: 2. d7 and White will queen a pawn.

TELEVISION CHOICE

In the glow of moonshine

Country Tracks BBC2, 8.00pm
Pete McCarthy gets up to no good in the west of Ireland this week, demonstrating with the help of local friends the traditional, but illegal, art of distilling poteen. Why this apparently harmless activity, which is dying out anyway, still incurs the wrath of the law is unclear. But it gives McCarthy's report the potential for mischief which, jolly fellow, he is not going to let slip. Curiously, having showed us every stage of the moonshine's manufacture, McCarthy shrinks from drinking the stuff on camera. He explains that he will be breaking the law. Elsewhere Country Tracks is on entirely respectable ground, as Lindsay Cannock's report the potential for mischief which, jolly fellow, he is not going to let slip.



Kate Lonergan and Patricia Routledge star as a hairdresser and detective (BBC1, 9.30pm)

Friends Channel 4, 9.00pm
It is all about girlfriends tonight, though regular viewers will know that the merest hint of a new woman in the lives of Joey, Chandler or Ross is almost a guarantee that the relationship is doomed. The only question is how, and you have to give the writers credit for finding ever more ingenious ways to engineer the splits. When Ross (David Schwimmer) has to share the gorgeous Cheryl, to the bitchy displeasure of his old flame Rachel (Jennifer Aniston), all seems well. Then she invites him back to her place, which is so full of garbage (what we call rubbish) that Ross's romantic urges desert him. Matt Le Blane's Joey, meanwhile, would be getting on fine with Kathy (Courteney Cox), but she has a boyfriend (Matthew Perry). Like Cheryl, Kathy is a character who seems destined for an early exit.

her hair done. There must be a reason and, sure enough, the hairdresser (Kate Lonergan) wants Hetty to investigate why a man followed her. A husband into a pub lavatory and beat him up. A plotlet about Geoffrey (Dominic Monaghan) Madlock by helping to get her a job completes tonight's ingredients. As usual they are blended into a drama which eschews the violent and the vulgar and promotes home, family, community, the rule of justice and the durability of the over-60s.

Hasty Waindripp Investigates BBC1, 9.30pm
Give Peter Gibbs's script full marks for its plotting. Derek Benfield's Robert is showing off his crisp dark suit on route to a funeral. And why the novel Robert struggles to write a column for the local newspaper which Robert hopes to inherit. Meanwhile Hetty (Patricia Routledge) is off to have

Spin City Channel 4, 9.30pm
In the current debate about the relative merits of British and American sitcoms, Spin City is not the best evidence for American superiority but it continues to provide innocuous and simple-minded fun. Perhaps a comedy about a political spin doctor could or should have more bite than this spin aspirin. The nearest British equivalent, Yes Prime Minister, certainly did and was much wittier. Spin City, however, is built around the compact but perfectly formed charms of Michael J. Fox and we have to take him or leave him. Tonight, Fox goes to a real doctor and gets a health scare in the waterworks region. His boss, the New York Minister, struggles to write a book, there is a gag about office furniture and Donald Trump makes a guest appearance. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Strictly Dancehall Radio 4, 11.00am (FM only)
Philip Sweeney today continues his tour of European dancehalls which, while keeping alive the old traditions, have happily married them to the preferences of dancers in the late 20th century. A Paloma, in other words, bestrides the tangerine, the waltz, and the less romantic days of the disco and cha-cha-cha. And although its elegant chandelier and red plush drapes speak of times past, the dancers still hand baskets of cakes to the members of the band — an affecting tribute to the music-makers who have always been their cultural idols. The Paloma is 88 years old. Sweeney implies that a spectacular celebration of its centenary can confidently be predicted.

Victorville Radio 4, 9.00pm
Marty Kahan's play imagines what occurred when a remarkably gifted Hollywood triumvirate went on the emotional rollercoaster ride that ended up as one of the most famous movies ever made, Citizen Kane. The trio are the director-actor Orson Welles, the scriptwriter Herman Mankiewicz, and the script editor John Houseman. Sparks fly when they meet at the Californian ranch-house called Victorville in 1940. "Son of a bitch"... "The Kid"... "brilliant"... how Houseman and Mankiewicz variously describe Welles, who is not only categorising themselves as "attendants in Lite Orphan Orson's spring pageant", Kahan's three-handed play was recorded in the US under Ned Chaillet's direction. Peter Daville

RADIO 1
6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow, with Seat, the Supersubstrats and Matthew Merdian in Brighton. Includes at 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Peter Terry's Essential Selection 8.30 Dance Party, Live from Brighton, with Dave Pearce, Judge Jules, Seb Fontaine and Tall Paul 10.30 Westwood: Radio 1 Rap Show 2.00am Fabio and Groovesider 4.00 Emma B

WORLD SERVICE
7.00am News 7.15 Inight 7.30 Letters from Britain 7.45 The Money Makers 8.00 News 8.15 On the Spot 8.30 Music Review 8.00 News (9.45 only) News in German 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Westway 9.30 John Peel 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 The Learning World 10.30 Speaking of English 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 Newsbeat 11.30 A Green History of the Planet 12.00 Newsbeat 12.30pm Focus on Faith 1.00 News (9.45 only) News in German 1.30 World Business Report 1.45 Britain Today 1.50 News 2.00 News 3.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack: Alternative 4.00 News 4.05 Football Extra 4.15 Stories from the Atlantic 4.30 Science in Action (9.45 only) News 4.45 Britain Today 4.50 Newsbeat 5.00 News 5.15 Britain Today 5.00 News 5.15 Inight 5.30 How to Listen (9.45 only) News in German 5.45 Sports Roundup 7.00 Newsbeat 7.30 Proms 78 8.30 Multitrack/Alternative 9.00 Newsbeat 10.00 News 10.15 World Business Report 10.15 Britain Today Crime and Punishment 11.00 Newsbeat 11.30 Inight 11.45 Sports Roundup 12.00 News 12.05am Outlook 12.30 Multitrack/Alternative 1.00 Newsbeat 1.30am From the Westside 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsbeat 2.30 Stories from the Atlantic 2.45 Short Story 3.00 Newsbeat 3.30 Crime and Punishment 4.00 News 4.05 World Business Report 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 Weekend

RADIO 5 LIVE
6.00am The Strollat Programme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ruszoo and Co 4.00 Nationwide with Julian Worlock 7.00 News Extra, with Annie Webster 7.30 Friday Sport, Fulham v Manchester City in Division Two. Plus SuperLeague news 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night

CLASSIC FM
6.00am Nick Bellow 8.00 Harry Kelly. Includes Record of the Week and the High Flyer 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones plays listeners' favourite pieces of music 2.00pm Concerts. Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 2 F major) 3.00 Michael Head. Includes Concerto Continuo, 2.30 Series, the spot updates and travel news 6.30 Newsweek. Presented by Annemaria Mihail 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Burningham introduces two hours of easy-listening sounds 8.00 Evening Concert. J.S. Bach (Concerto for 3 Violins, Violin Concerto in Music from Amphytrion), Vivaldi (Gloria), Bach (Concerto No 147, Heitz and Mund and Tat and Leban) 11.00 Merr in Night. Music and conversation for the early hours 2.00am Concerto (i) 3.00 Nick Griffin

TALK RADIO
6.30am The New Talk Radio Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm 11.30 Lorena Kelly 1.00pm Anna Reading 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Dewley 7.00 Nick Abbot 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Mike Dickin

RADIO 3
6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny. Includes a preview of the Edinburgh International Festival, which opens this weekend. Plus Sarah Jones (Cae Rosbenard); Dalibes (Suite: Coppelia); Wierawski (Polonaise No 1 in D)
9.00 Newsbeat Ireland. Includes Wagner (Dance of the Apprentices); Entry of the Masters; Die Meistersinger; Haydn (Concerto in D, H XVII 11); Beethoven (Symphony No 5 in C minor); Liszt (Liebeslied); Debussy (Nocturne); Non sono in questo momento; Tulle le bocche belle; Madrigals; Book 2; Mendelssohn (Piano de Beethoven on concert 8.15 Sat. Op 5 No 9)
10.30 Proms Artist of the Week: Thomas Allen
11.00 Sound Stories: Classical Heroines Peggy Reynolds introduces music inspired by the many

RADIO 4
6.00am Today, with John Humphrys and Wilfred Brunning. Includes 6.25, 7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day
9.00 Newsbeat Ireland. Today's castaway is David Hempelmann Adams (i)
9.45 (FM) JRR Tolkien's Roverandom: Return to the Shire. Tolkien's Roverandom is the tale of a dog who is turned into a toy as a result of being innocuous to a wizard (45)
9.45 (LW) An Act of Worship
10.05 News at Five. With Martha Kearney
10.45 (LW) The Triangulum Tournament: South Africa v Sri Lanka. Commentary from Trent Bridge on the first match by Jonathan Wilson.
11.00 (FM) News; Strictly Dancehall: La Paloma, Barcelona, San Chirico
11.30 (FM) Like They Never Been Gone. Set.com by Mike Coleman. With June Whitfield and Roy Hudd as Eurovision winners who get a second chance at fame
12.00 (FM) News; Mindfulness: Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News; You and Yours, with Tricia Rawlinson and John Waite 12.57 Weather
12.05pm (LW) The Triangulum Tournament
1.00 The World at One
1.30 (FM) Like They Never Been Gone. Set.com by Mike Coleman. With June Whitfield and Roy Hudd as Eurovision winners who get a second chance at fame
2.00 (FM) News; The Archers (i)
2.15 (FM) Afternoon Play: Deep in the Heart of Darkness, by Graham White. In 1871, the nation became obsessed with the terrible suffering of a tiny Devon village at the hands of a family of depraved and lawless passants. With Bob Peck, Emma Fielding and Steven Waddington
3.00 (FM) News; Check Up. The weekly health phone-in with Barbara Myers
3.30 (FM) Walls of Fame; The Fied House (i)

RADIO 4
3.45 (FM) Feedback, with Chris Durby
4.00 (FM) News; Open Book. Humphrey Carpenter explores the shadows of the mystery trailer writer (i)
4.30 (FM) The Message, with Alex Brodie
5.00 (FM) PM 5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast 5.57 Weather
5.57 (LW) The Triangulum Tournament
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 RTTF. The Australian comedian Mark Little chairs the new-based improvisation game with John Mulvaney and Ed Byrne
7.00 News; The Archers: 4.15 Front Row
7.45 Dear Jayne Browne, by Michael Butt. With Jill Balcon, Stella Gonet and Lizzie McInerney (55) (i)
8.00 News; Diverse Perspectives: The Individual and Society — Me or Us? Yashini Arora-Brown invites her audience and guests — including Will Hutton and Suzanne Moore — to look at contemporary issues from the perspective of different cultures in Britain today
8.45 Letter from America, with Alister Cooke
9.00 News; The Friday Play: Victorville, by Marty Kahan. With Stanley Kamei, David Owen Stern and William Huddstone. See Choice
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Fame is the Spur, by Howard Spring, read by David Calder (10/10)
11.00 Late Night on 4. Liza Taylor. Sporting discussion with Martin Bashir and guests
11.30 The Syndicate: East-Enders. The first of two programmes in which Robin McElroy follows the fortunes of the Orton Club, a greyhound syndicate formed by House of Commons chiefs
12.00 News 12.00am The Late Book: The Shipping News, by E. Annie Proulx's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, abridged by Pat McLoughlin, read by William Hurt (10/10) (i)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-92.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.9-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6. LW 185. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 693, 908. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648, LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1065, MW 1085, 1088. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McManera.





**RUGBY LEAGUE 41**  
Goulding finally sent packing by St Helens

# SPORT

FRIDAY AUGUST 14 1998

**GOLF 46**  
King reigns supreme at British Open



## Hoddle risks losing trust of his players

GLENN HODDLE was facing the most serious crisis of his career as England coach last night as it grew increasingly apparent that the divisive and destructive nature of recent revelations he has made about England's World Cup campaign and its protagonists had called his credibility into question.



**Oliver Holt says the England football coach has done himself few favours**

Extracts from Hoddle's glorified World Cup diary have been printed in *The Sun* this week and have included scathing and colourful attacks on players, including Paul Gascoigne, Chris Sutton and Teddy Sheringham, that many within the game consider to be unforgivable breaches of confidence and etiquette.

As Hoddle faced mounting criticism from respected figures within the sport, including Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, who called his conduct "unprofessional", it was also becoming clear that his actions have alienated some of the most influential players within the England squad and left them thoroughly disenchanted with his leadership style.

He now faces a crucial meeting with many of his players at a get-together at Bisham Abbey on Sunday, when he will have to try to reassure them about his motives for revealing some of

his private dealings with them and convince them that he is the man to lead them forward to the European championship finals in Holland and Belgium in 2000.

Understandably, none of the players were willing to make their grievances public yesterday, but it has been pointed out that Terry Venables, Hoddle's predecessor, steadfastly refused to divulge any details of the incident on a flight home from Hong Kong that upset his squad's preparations for the 1996 European championship.

In contrast, Hoddle spared nothing in his description of Gascoigne's distress when he was told that he had been omitted from the squad. He has also deepened his rift with Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, upon whom he depends for the release of a bevy of young internationals, by calling him "crazy".

In fact, it is Hoddle who seems to have taken leave of his senses. Far from counting his blessings that he had escaped with his reputation

undamaged after England's early World Cup exit — courtesy, largely, of the finger he pointed at David Beckham — Hoddle's book is written with an arrogance suggestive of a manager who had won the tournament. That, coupled with his assertion that the only mistake he made during the competition was in not allowing his faith healer, Eileen Drewery, to accompany the squad to France, has led to a backlash from players and officials alike.

His contract with the Football Association runs for another two years, and with the first qualifying match for Euro 2000 less than three weeks away it is almost inconceivable that he will not be allowed to steer England through to the finals. His actions, though, have made his task much harder.

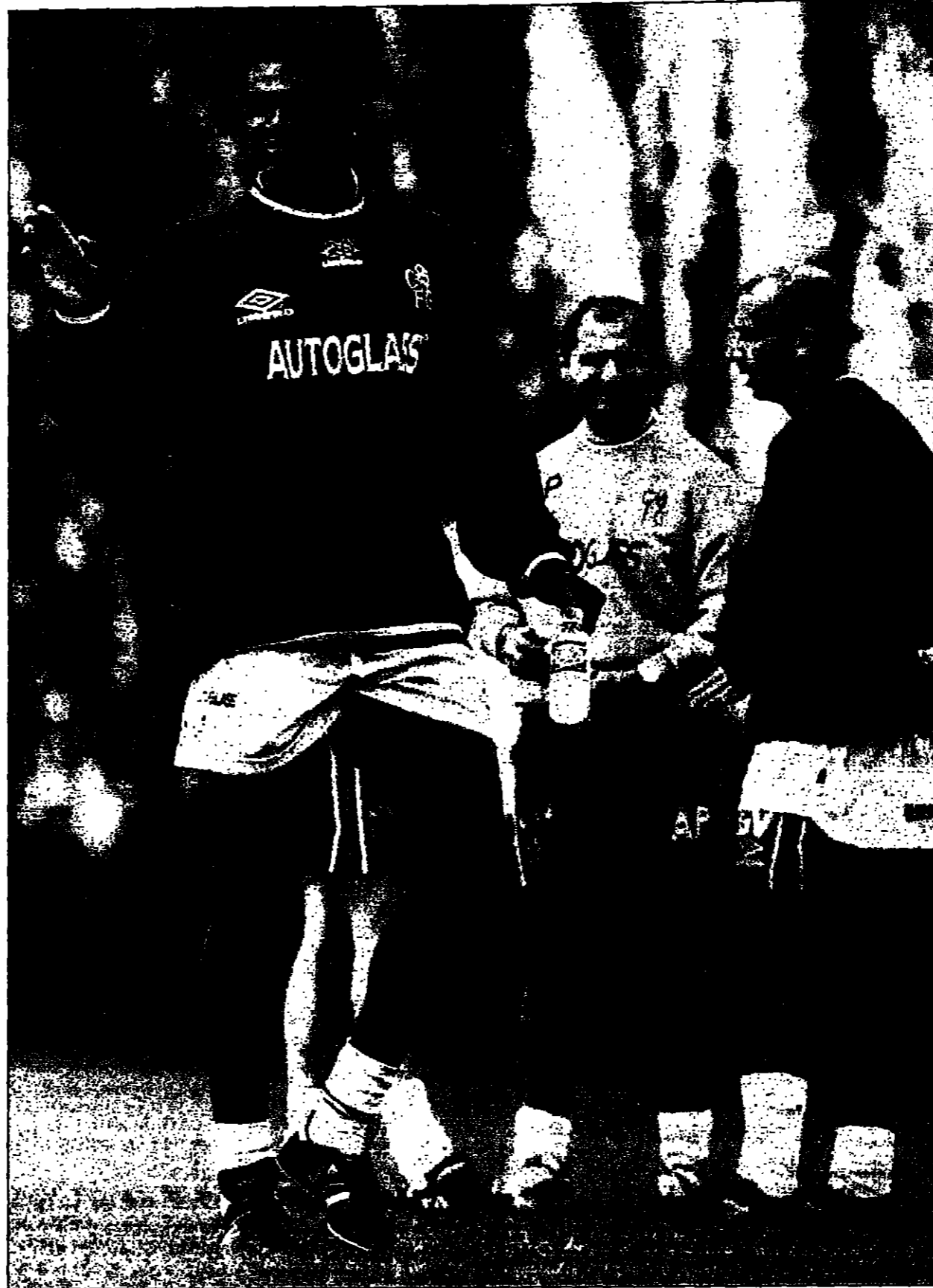
Which England player now can go into a private meeting with Hoddle and expect it to remain private? Which player can break Hoddle's rules — as Sheringham and Gascoigne did — without expecting their sins to be made public and their contribution to be the subject of a chapter in the next tome? If he had gained their trust, he will have lost it now.

One also wonders what position Hoddle will be in if Gascoigne enjoys a stellar start to the season with Middlesbrough and makes a cast-iron case for an international recall. That particular relationship is now surely damaged beyond repair. Gascoigne, for all his problems and despite the fact that he deserved to be left out of the final 22, remains a hugely popular character with the other players.

There will, undoubtedly, be calls for Hoddle to resign before his next scheduled meeting with his players on Tuesday. They will both be crucial exercises in damage limitation for Hoddle, who will have to repair relationships within his squad and try to persuade the press that he is not talking in half-truths.

Last night, Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, defended Hoddle's right to produce his diary and said the FA "has no wish to attempt to censor his views". But the book — *Glenn Hoddle, the 1996 World Cup Story* — was written by its director of communications, David Davies, a fact that calls into question whether the public were misled during the tournament so that details could be saved for the book.

Davies defended his role last night. He said that Hoddle had asked him to write it so that he could not be accused of favouring one journalist above another. Of the revelations surrounding Gascoigne, Davies said that Hoddle considered the matter was in the public domain after the player had put his side of events in a newspaper. "I am not aware that anyone is suggesting there has been any other breach of confidence," Davies said.



Desailly presents an imposing sight during training yesterday, with Vialli keeping busy in the background

## Vialli supports the foreign legion

By Oliver Holt, Football Correspondent

GIANLUCA VIALLI, the Chelsea player-manager, last night mounted a spirited defence of his club's predilection for swelling the ranks of foreign players in the FA Cup.

As it was emerging that Frank Sinclair, the right back who many had identified as Chelsea's Achilles heel last season, had moved to Leicester City for £2 million, Vialli proudly paraded Marcel Desailly, the World Cup's most accomplished defender, and Pierluigi Casiraghi, the Italian forward, in front of the cameras at the club's Harlington training ground near Heathrow.

Chelsea have been singled out by Terry Venables, the former England coach, and by Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, as the club most guilty of stifling the opportunities of local players because of their aggressive policy of buying big from abroad.

However, as Vialli aired his hopes that Chelsea would become realistic challengers for Arsenal's title this season by cutting out the inconsisten-

cies that bedevilled them throughout last year, he spoke like a child of the European Community, saying that he had been brought up to believe in Europe, not individual nation states, and that he cared only about the quality of his players, not where they came from.

"To be honest, I don't care about whether players are English," Vialli said. "I do not look at their nationality when I pick the team. I just want it to be successful. If someone is English or American or Ital-

Gillespie denial — 45

ian. I do not care. I only need the players to speak the same language on the pitch and I promise you that is English."

"We are all from Europe and I was always taught that we have to think about Europe now, not England, Germany or France. I might be wrong, but I don't think the supporters care too much about the fact that there are not enough English players in the team. They just want to come and see Chelsea play and win trophies."

With Brian Laudrup, the former Rangers winger, unlikely to be fit enough to make

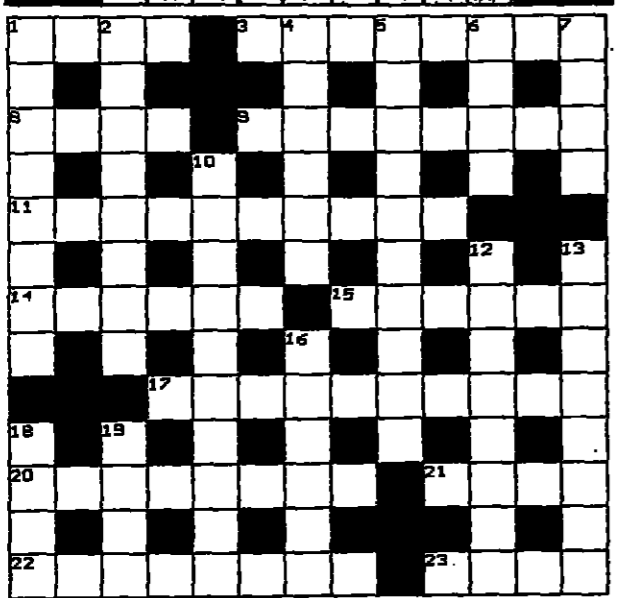
his debut against Coventry City at Highfield Road on Saturday, most attention will focus on Desailly, the man who was arguably the foundation upon which France built their World Cup victory, and Casiraghi, Chelsea's record £5.4 million signing from Lazio, as the players who will be able to help them improve on their fourth place in the Premiership last season.

Desailly, a giant of a man, spoke in a disarmingly quiet voice about his happiness at the World Cup success and his determination to move on to new challenges with Chelsea. "The faculty of man is to forget," he said. He also made it clear that he had a point to prove to AC Milan, his previous employers, who sold him with two years of his contract still remaining. "I have not come here for a rest," he said.

Vialli remained the star of the show, though, articulate and good-humoured as ever. "Unfortunately for us," he said, "all the other teams in the Premiership are very well aware that we are a side who are capable of winning the title. Sometimes it is better if you start from the shadows so it is a surprise for the rest of them."

With Desailly, Casiraghi, Laudrup, Gianfranco Zola and Roberto di Matteo in the line-up, there is little chance of this team being allowed to catch anyone unawares. There are no shadows in the Premiership any more. Not even at Highfield Road.

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1494

- ACROSS**
- 1 A crest curvy, some honey (4)
  - 3 Daughter's husband (3-2-3)
  - 8 Norse (magic) letter (4)
  - 9 German airship (8)
  - 11 One addicted to job (10)
  - 14 Bring out of hiding (6)
  - 15 Large hollow in rock; Beatles nightclub (6)
  - 17 Outline (drawing) (10)
  - 20 Make abnormally thin (8)
  - 21 Leave; section (4)
  - 22 Assiduous (8)
  - 23 Unite by heat (4)

- DOWN**
- 1 Tired by worries (8)
  - 2 Tropical swamp tree (8)
  - 4 US state, had settler Trail (6)
  - 5 Approval (esp. to print) (10)
  - 6 Quiet interlude (4)
  - 7 Slowly decrease (4)
  - 10 (Cliften) adhering to the rules (3-7)
  - 12 Conan Doyle's Inspector (8)
  - 13 Turned upside down (8)
  - 16 Quantum of light (6)
  - 18 Mildly obscene (4)
  - 19 (College) dining-room; Bilko's Colonel (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1493

- ACROSS: 1 Hot potato 6 Sag 8 Comment 9 Talon  
10 Lock 11 Mutineer 13 Runner 14 Hectic 17 Gauntlet  
18 Envy 20 Alias 21 Bravura 22 Dog 23 Niggardly  
DOWN: 1 Heckler 2 Time-consuming 3 Ode 4 Artful  
5 Outsider 6 Silver-tongued 7 Goner 12 Jetison 15 Cry-baby 16 Tea bag 17 Grand 19 Lava

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## Welsh prove the stumbling block

By Mark Souster

DESPITE fresh Welsh resistance, the British league would appear to have taken a step closer to reality last night after a fruitful meeting between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and England's leading clubs yesterday. Both sides agreed to continue to pursue the concept in time for the forthcoming season and urged other unions to enter urgent negotiations.

A joint statement from the RFU and English Rugby Partnership (ERP) said: "The immediate commercial requirements are to publish a fixture list of this proposed and exciting concept that has caught the imagination of the rugby public and to achieve formal recognition of the competition by the relevant unions."

Scotland immediately responded positively; whether the Welsh will do likewise remains to be seen. An SRU spokesman said: "Anybody who knocks on the door at Murrayfield with British league or British and Irish league proposals will find the door open. It is our policy and we want it sooner rather than later."

Only the continued intransigence of the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) would appear to stand in the way of a concept that the Welsh clubs and public have readily embraced. The ball remains in the Welsh court after their club representatives and the control of a British league.

It should be incumbent upon Glamour Griffiths, the WRU chairman, and Vernon Pugh, the International Rugby Board chairman whose motives for opposing the league remain unclear, to return from Argentina rather than sniping from afar.

The joint statement stressed the belief that the cross-border competition could still be achieved this season, but added that all agreed that the spirit of the Mayfair agreement should be maintained. That would appear to rule out friendly games with Cardiff and Swansea, whose own futures within their union were again in the melting pot last night.

Referring to yesterday's

## FA drops charge against Clough

By Russell Kempson

BRIAN CLOUGH, the former Nottingham Forest manager, has had his charge of misconduct dropped by the Football Association. The FA announced yesterday that it will not continue with disciplinary proceedings into alleged unauthorised payments involving transfer dealings because of Clough's ill health.

The charges were brought, and strenuously denied, by Clough, last January after publication of the results of an FA investigation, set up in October 1995, into the "bung" scandal. George Graham, the former Arsenal manager, was found guilty and banned from the sport for a year.

Clough's alleged involvement centred on the signing by Forest, which he managed from 1975 to 1993, of two players from Leicester United, the non-league club. Ronnie Fenton, his assistant manager, and Steve Burtenshaw, the chief scout at Arsenal, were also charged with misconduct. "Brian is not gravely ill, nor is he housebound, but his health is poor," Michael Clavell-Bate, Clough's lawyer, said last night. "He was perfectly willing to advance a defence case, but the amount of effort and time needed would have been enormous. He is 63, has not been involved in the game for five years and some injuries he sustained in his playing career have caught up with him."

"Having the charge hanging over him is bound to have taken its toll as well. He is happy that it has been concluded and dearly hopes to be remembered for his achievements and not for the allegations made against him."

In a statement, the FA said: "Mr Clough has provided medical evidence that indicates he is unfit to attend a personal hearing. The FA considers that, in all the circumstances, Mr Clough would not be able to present his defence to the best of his ability and it would be in no one's interest to continue the prosecution."

Outstanding misconduct charges against Fenton, who no longer works for Forest, and Burtenshaw, who has left Arsenal, are due to be heard on September 16. Charges against Forest arising from the inquiry will also be heard by an FA disciplinary commission, on a date to be confirmed.

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